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POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

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USSR REPORT
POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

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PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

PRAVDA STRESSES INDIVIDUAL'S ROLE IN RESTRUCTURING

PM201025 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Nov 86 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "The Position in Restructuring"]

[Excerpts] Not for nothing is it said that the path leading from words to action is not an easy one. And real success comes all the sooner when people are not only quick to speak but also--and this is the main thing--swift to act. The restructuring process unfolding in the country provides strong confirmation of this.

The restructuring process is moving irrepressibly ahead. The changes affect every sphere of our society's life. Every day increasingly broad masses of people are really becoming involved in the vast amount of intensive work to speed up the country's socioeconomic development. At this crucial stage it is more important than ever that every one of us--from worker to minister--checks his opinions, appraisals, and approaches, grasps the significance of our daily work, and perceives great things in the smallest, the most ordinary tasks. No one must remain on the sidelines of the restructuring process. Increasingly the time is raising acutely for every one of us the question of our own position in the restructuring process and our personal responsibility for the fate of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions. More and more frequently one hears it said at party meetings, at party committee and bureau sessions, and in comradely discussions: "And what have you yourself done to improve matters and enhance production quality? What have you actually done to make your work more efficient and your life better?" And this is understandable: Loud approval of the restructuring process from the rostrum will not, of itself, change anything. What is required is serious, thorough, practical organization of everything new. "It is one thing," V.I. Lenin warned, "to acknowledge agreement with...something that is right, swear that you identify with it, and pay verbal tribute to it. It is another thing to be able to put it into practice."

And really, can a great deal of progress be made in the planned acceleration process if real action is replaced by talk and practical restructuring measures by unfounded projects and fanciful notions? This is why we must wage uncompromising struggle against bureaucracy and formalism, idleness and acquisitiveness, bad management, and slipshod attitudes. Work efficiency can be judged by one criterion alone: how matters are progressing in practice. There must be no other means of assessment.

Party organizations are now doing a great deal to ensure that every working person and especially every communist actively participates in the restructuring process. A considerable number of facts have been cited at report and election meetings which evidence serious work in this direction. The flood of paper regulating the activity of primary party organizations is being reduced, for example. They are being given greater opportunity to develop their initiative and independence. There is greater openness and monitoring of the implementation of decisions taken, and also greater responsibility for people's assigned area of work. Democracy is expanding and the effectiveness of criticism and self-criticism is increasing. The struggle for strict observance of the principles of social justice and against violations of moral norms, unearned income, drunkenness, and other negative phenomena is becoming increasingly acute.

All this is conducive to a change of direction both in people's thinking and in their actions. However, judging by evidence at the local level there is still considerable untapped potential for enhancing the role of the human factor in collectives. A great deal has still to be done to implement the decision taken by the party and the government to introduce the practice of state acceptance of products at industrial enterprises.

Understanding of the importance of working directly with people, as the basis of party leadership style has by no means been grasped everywhere. In some places the restructuring process is merely reduced to superficial changes, without the trouble being taken to conduct prolonged and persistent organizational activity to set matters right. Or, still worse, restructuring is only talked about and made the subject of "idle chatter." Decisions taken are often uncoordinated, half-hearted, unsystematized, and ill-considered. It is clear that party committees must overcome this.

This was exactly, self-critically discussed at a recent Leningrad CPSU Gorkom plenum. That particular gorkom is doing a great deal to ensure that everyone works to his full potential. However, recent research among communists at the city's enterprises and organizations showed that more than 60 percent of those questioned are not yet aware of any radical restructuring in party work. And the reasons for this situation, as the plenum participants noted, lie in a formal approach to changes which has not yet been fully eliminated and in the reluctance of some working people to take new, bold steps and renounce stereotypes and cliches.

It is intolerable when certain economic leaders and party organizations try to create the appearance of well-being and vigorous work by overstating results. Party committees must not tolerate deception of the state or put up with the deceivers themselves.

The stand taken by each one of us in the restructuring process also largely depends on ideological and political work. This work must focus on the individual with his concerns and problems. The situation whereby some people

"lay down the law" and say what is or is not true while others merely "take heed," no room being left for frank dialogue, must become a thing of the past once and for all. The bulk approach and orientation on massive "cover" must also be ended.

Success in anything is determined primarily by the individual. The individual's active stance is the foundation of our acceleration and of the irreversibility of the restructuring process. And it is the duty of party organizations to constantly concern themselves with forming this stance by steadily broadening the framework of socialist self-management and democracy and cultivating in every Soviet citizen a sense of being master of his country. This is precisely what life demands.

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CSO: 1800/157

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

RSFSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION REPORTED

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Oct 86 p 1

[Article: "In the RSFSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] On 13 October a meeting of the RSFSR Council of Ministers was held with the participation of the chairmen of the agroindustrial committees of the autonomous republics, krais and oblasts; representatives of local party, Soviet and economic-management agencies; and leading workers in agricultural production. The meeting discussed the tasks of the RSFSR's Soviet and economic-management agencies in connection with the organized wintering of livestock and increasing the production and procurements of animal husbandry products during the winter of 1986-1987, as well as results of the fulfillment of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the RSFSR and the RSFSR State Budget for the first nine months of 1986.

The Russian Federation has been awarded the Certificate of Honor of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and the Central Committee of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League for the successful wintering of livestock and increasing of the production and procurements of animal husbandry products in the winter of 1985-1986. The certificate of honor was presented by V. S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agroindustrial Committee.

It was noted that employees of the agroindustrial complex, having joined in implementing the policy outlined by the party of accelerating socioeconomic development, have achieved certain positive results in the development of animal husbandry and other branches of agriculture. The wintering of livestock was conducted in organized fashion, and in 1986 the production and sales to the state of meat, milk and eggs have been increased, and the plan for the procurement of these products for the first nine months has been fulfilled. More grain, potatoes, vegetables and other agricultural produce and animal feeds have been obtained.

At the same time, on some kolkhozes and sovkhoses and at other agricultural enterprises existing potential for raising productivity and further increasing the production and procurements of animal husbandry products is not being fully utilized. In some oblasts, krais and autonomous republics plans have not

been fulfilled, amounts of procurements of basic animal husbandry products have declined, proper measures have not been taken to provide the necessary amount of feed for livestock during the coming wintering, not enough attention is being given to increasing the quality of this feed, the preparation of livestock buildings and production equipment for work in winter conditions is being carried out slowly, and not all livestock sections have been fully staffed.

The RSFSR Council of Ministers ordered the RSFSR State Agroindustrial Committee, the autonomous republic Councils of Ministers and the kray and oblast Soviet executive committees to concentrate efforts on implementing the Food Program, increasing labor productivity, improving quality indices and fulfilling contractual commitments, and to do everything possible to support and develop the initiative of leading production workers aimed at attaining high end results. It pointed out the need to make maximum use of the reserves of every kolkhoz, sovkhos and livestock section in increasing the production of meat, milk and other products, and to take effective steps during the remaining period to accumulate all types of feed. Special care should be shown for fully staffing livestock sections and complexes with qualified personnel and for creating proper working and social and living conditions for employess in agriculture.

In examining the results of the fulfillment of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the RSFSR and RSFSR State Budget for the first nine months of 1986, it was emphasized that the steps being taken to utilize reserves, improve organization and strengthen discipline are having a positive impact on the situation in the republic's economy. The volume of industrial production rose by 5.1 percent, whereas the assignment for the year was 4 percent. The plan for the sale of output and increase in labor productivity has been fulfilled. Assignments for the hauling of freight by all forms of transportation have been fulfilled. 13 percent more fixed assets financed by state capital investments have been commissioned than in the first nine months of last year.

A further improvement in the people's living standard has been achieved. The average monthly earnings of workers and office employees, pay of collective farmers, and volume of retail trade (excluding sales of alcoholic beverages) and sales of consumer services have risen. Residential buildings totaling 27.8 million square meters in area and new schools, preschool institutions, hospitals and other social and cultural facilities have been turned over for occupancy and use.

At the same time, it was noted that restructuring is still proceeding slowly in many RSFSR ministries and departments, and that the work being done in this area lacks dynamism, a businesslike approach and specificity.

The situation with regard to fulfillment of the 1986 state plan and budget remains tense. Many associations, enterprises and organizations have been working in an unsteady and uneven fashion. A fundamental improvement of qualitative performance indices has not been achieved. Nearly one production association or enterprise in three is failing to fulfill plans for deliveries of output in accordance with contracts concluded and work orders accepted for

fulfillment. The republic's industry has not fulfilled September's plan for the sale of output. The attention of the RSFSR Ministry of Light Industry, Ministry of the Textile Industry, State Agroindustrial Committee, Ministry of Grain Products and Ministry of Local Industry was called to the failure to fulfill the monthly plan.

A number of production facilities of priority state importance are being built too slowly. In certain autonomous republics, krais and oblasts there has been a delay in preparing housing stock, power engineering and municipal services, and urban transport for the 1986-1987 fall and winter period, and in accumulating the necessary fuel reserves. There have been serious shortcomings in the fulfillment of social assignments.

The RSFSR Council of Ministers has ordered the RSFSR ministries and departments, the autonomous republic Councils of Ministers, and the Soviet executive committees to critically examine the results of the activities of the associations, enterprises and organizations under their administration during the first nine months of 1986 and to take effective steps to eliminate existing shortcomings and make up for delays that have occurred in order to ensure the unconditional fulfillment of the annual plan and budget and the socialist pledges that have been made.

Officials of the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, the Central Committee of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League, the USSR State Planning Committee and USSR ministries and departments took part in the work of the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

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PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

MOSCOW BURO SCORES RAYKOM WORK

Moscow PARTIYNAYA ZHIZN in Russian No 18, Sep 86 (signed to press 9 Sep 86)
pp 41-42

[Article under the rubric "Intraparty Information": "Work of Party Raykom in Restructuring Deemed Unsatisfactory"]

[Text] The buro of the Moscow CPSU City Committee has examined the work of the Frunze Raykom in restructuring the activities of the rayon organizations since the 27th CPSU Congress and has deemed it unsatisfactory.

It was noted that the raykom, its buro and Comrade B. A. Gryaznov himself, raykom first secretary, have failed to begin restructuring with themselves and have been embroidering the actual state of affairs. Collective leadership, criticism and self-criticism and openness have not become a norm of life for the raykom. This has had a ruinous effect on the restructuring of the work of party organizations, many of which have displayed passivity in implementing the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee's April (1985) Plenum and the 27th Party Congress. Satisfying itself with superficially successful interim indices, the raykom has not worked out new approaches to accomplishing the priority tasks of intensifying production and has not been able to mobilize the rayon's Communists and working people to accelerate scientific and technological progress and introduce an outlay-preventive mechanism in the economy. Production assignments have been fulfilled by means of adjustments, which have been condemned by the CPSU Central Committee, and by means of overtime work. Personnel turnover and losses of work time in industry are twice as high as the citywide average and are not being reduced. Losses from defective work are high. The value of uninstalled equipment has been increasing; highly productive machinery is being used inefficiently; and a two- and three-shift operating schedule is not being introduced. In a number of construction organizations the limit on the number of employees has been exceeded, and the correlation between the rate of growth of labor productivity and the rate of growth of earnings has been violated. Socialist competition has been organized according to obsolete stereotypes; personal and brigade five-year plans have not been developed; and undemanding pledges have been adopted.

There have been no real advances in solving accumulated social problems. The party raykom has been conniving at executives of the rayon Soviet ispolkom who

manifest callousness, inattentiveness to people's everyday needs, and inertness in overcoming the neglected state of the rayon economy. The amount of renovation of the housing stock has been reduced; urban improvement plans have not been fulfilled; living space has been squandered; and social justice has been violated. Trade, consumer services and the social sphere directly at production facilities have been developing poorly. The number of complaints from the rayon to city organizations has doubled. A number of ispolkom executives have been abusing their offices and have gotten bogged down in dealing with personal matters. The party control commission of the Moscow City CPSU Committee has been instructed to examine cases of abuses and violations of party ethics by executives.

It was emphasized in the buro of the Moscow Gorkom that the raykom has not been bringing about a drastic turn toward renewal of the forms and methods of party guidance and has not been strengthening its ties with labor collectives. Raykom plenums and party meetings take place in a spirit of complacency. An atmosphere of businesslike, candid exchange of opinions has not been created at them, and secretaries, the chiefs of raykom departments, and Soviet and economic executives remain beyond criticism. The setting of tasks by directive and overorganization continue to dominate. Decisions taken by the raykom are not specific, and the monitoring of their implementation has become lax. Communists and the aktiv are not informed about the work of the raykom and its buro. The raykom's reaction to critical articles in the press is extremely oversensitive.

The party raykom has not restructured its work with personnel and takes a patient attitude toward manifestations of stagnation, dependency and irresponsibility. In violation of the requirements of the CPSU Statutes, many executives who have received administrative penalties do not receive a party evaluation, and for one in every four party penalties are imposed in circumvention of primary party organizations. This year 29 executives have been expelled from the ranks of the CPSU, and 16 of them have had criminal proceedings taken against them. The party gorkom buro condemned the existing practice in the raykom of the secret resolution of personnel questions, and raykom first secretary Comrade Gryaznov's personal shielding from criticism of employees who have compromised themselves but enjoyed his personal favor.

Many trade-union and Komsomol organizations and people's control groups and posts have failed to define their place in restructuring, have not been making the proper contribution to enhancing the working people's activeness, and have been lax in implementing the principles of self-management and social justice.

Poor use has been made of enterprise newspapers and oral and visual agitation to expand openness and make the working people better informed. The struggle against unearned income, drunkenness and parasitism has become lax.

The absence of a drastic change in the work of the rayon party organization is due to a large extent to the unfit work style of Comrade Gryaznov, who has grown accustomed to stagnation, propagated windowdressing, ignored the collective opinion, lost a sense of party comradliness, and only pretended to go along with restructuring.

The raykom apparatus has become divorced from the primary party organizations and proved unprepared for work in conditions of an expansion of intraparty democracy. Frequently its initiative has been suppressed by authoritative methods of management.

The attention of the raykom buro was directed to serious omissions in work related to the guidance of social and economic development. Comrade Gryaznov, raykom first secretary, was given a strict reprimand, to be recorded in his party membership records, for the failure to fulfill the requirements of the 27th CPSU Congress with regard to the restructuring of work, for the failure to appraise the state of affairs in a self-critical fashion, for a faulty executive style, and for subjectivism and lack of principle in work with personnel. The buro of the Moscow Gorkom ordered the party raykom to examine the question of relieving Comrade Gryaznov from his duties as first secretary of the raykom, taking his request into consideration.

The raykom has been given the task of concentrating organizational and political work directly in the party organizations and labor collectives and making use of all the untapped potential for acceleration. It must make criticism and self-criticism the norm in evaluating accomplishments, ensure broad openness in the work of the raykom buro, the party committees and the party buros, and resolutely eradicate formalism, overorganization and excessive obeisance to rank. It is to be more exacting toward personnel with respect to their mastery of political methods of leadership and the comprehensive accomplishment of economic and social tasks.

A plenum of the Frunze Rayon Party Committee was held to discuss the decision of the buro of the Moscow City Party Committee. Fully supporting the judgments and conclusions of the buro's decision, participants in the plenum made an exacting and probing analysis of shortcomings in the work of various units of the rayon party organization.

The plenum considered an organizational question.

B. A. Gryaznov was relieved of his duties as first secretary of the Frunze Rayon Party Committee for the failure to fulfill the requirements of the 27th CPSU Congress with regard to the restructuring of work, for the failure to evaluate the state of affairs in a self-critical fashion, for a faulty executive style, and for subjectivism and lack of principle in work with personnel.

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PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

JOURNAL GIVES STATISTICS ON PARTY MEMBERSHIP

Moscow POLITICHESKOYE SAMOOBRAZOVANIYE in Russian No 10, Oct 86 (signed to press 19 Sep 86) pp 126-127

[Article under the heading "The Propagandist's Notebook": "Leading Party Organs of Local Party Organizations, and the Composition of Party Cadres: Certain Statistical Data"]

[Text] Our party continues to develop along with Soviet society. As of the 27th Party Congress its membership amounted to 19,037,946 Communists. Party roots are becoming ever more firmly planted in the working class and in all sections of society. Among the country's adult population the party element has increased by 0.4 percent over the last five years, and presently comprises 9.7 percent of the population. The CPSU brings together in its ranks the representatives of more than 100 nations and nationalities.

As of 1 January 1986 the network of local party organs included 14 union republic communist party central committees; six kraykoms, 151 obkoms, two gorkoms equivalent to obkoms (Moscow and Kiev), 10 okrug committees, 889 gorkoms, and 663 urban and 2,887 rural raykoms. There were over 440,000 primary party organizations, and over 511,000 shop party organizations. In rail transport, there are 403 key party committees.

During the reporting and election period prior to the party congress (in 1985 and 1986) the number of persons active in the election in all party units increased by 490,000 people in comparison with the reporting and election campaign of 1980 and 1981; the party aktiv presently amounts to over 5.3 million people. Elected members of party committees and party buros, secretaries and deputy secretaries of shop party organizations and party groups were 2,693,000 people; 2,209,000 were elected members of party committees and party buros, secretaries and deputy secretaries of primary party organizations; 407,000 people were elected as members and candidate members of party okrug committees, gorkoms, and raykoms, and as members of the corresponding audit commissions; and, 31,900 were elected as members and candidate members of obkoms, kraykoms and union republic communist party central committees.

Of the total number elected to party organs, from the primary party organizations to the obkoms, kraykoms and union republic communist party central committees, 40.6 percent is comprised of workers and kolkhoz members (about 2,170,000 people). More than 1,285,000 workers and kolkhoz members were elected members of party committees and party buros, secretaries and deputy secretaries of shop party organizations and party group organs; over

693,000 were elected as members of party committees and party buros, secretaries and deputy secretaries of primary party organizations; elected to membership and candidate membership of raykoms, gorkoms and okrug party committees and as members of the corresponding audit commissions were nearly 179,000 persons (43.8 percent of the total number elected), of which 8,866 persons (17.8 percent of the total number elected) were chosen as members of the buros of raykoms, gorkoms and okrug party committees; and, 10,642 workers and kolkhoz members (33.4 percent of the total number elected to these organs) were chosen as members and candidate members of obkoms, kraykoms and union republic communist party central committees and as members of the corresponding audit commissions. In practically all party raykoms, gorkoms, obkoms and kraykoms, as well as in a number of union republic communist party central committees, workers or kolkhoz members are members of the buros of these committees.

The number of women in the membership of local party organs is steadily increasing. Whereas prior to the 27th CPSU Congress 551,000 women were elected members of party committees and party buros, secretaries of shop party organizations and party group organs (23.2 percent of the total number elected), in the course of the last reporting and election campaign, nearly 718,000 were elected (26.6 percent of the total number). Elected secretaries of primary party organizations were, correspondingly, more than 145,000 (35.1 percent) and 168,500 (38.3 percent); chosen to membership of party committees and party buros of primary party organizations--477,000 (27.9 percent) and 556,000 (30.3 percent); as members and candidate members of raykomns, gorkoms and okrug party committees, and as members of the corresponding audit commissions were 124,600 (31.3 percent) and 137,800 (33.9 percent); and, as members and candidate members of obkoms, kraykoms, and union republic communist party central committees, and to the corresponding audit commissions, were 7,607 women (24.2 percent of the total number elected) and 8,539 (26.8 percent).

Among the members and candidate members of raykoms, gorkoms, okrug party committees and audit commissions were 39,031 persons (9.6 percent of the total number elected) who are administrators of enterprises from industry, transport, communications and construction, as well as sovkhoz directors; 1,244 persons (0.3 percent) are administrators of interfarm enterprises and organizations; 24,635 persons (6.0 percent) are engineering and technical workers and agricultural specialists; 67,483 persons (16.6 percent) are party workers; 37,729 (9.3 percent) are officials from Soviet institutions; 24,267 (6.0 percent) are workers in science, culture, education and health care; and, 33,886 persons (8.3 percent) fall under other categories.

Of the total number elected as members and candidate members of raykoms, gorkoms, okrug party commissions and as members of audit commissions, 56.7 percent has higher education; 1.6 percent, incomplete higher education; 39 percent, secondary education; 2.6 percent, incomplete secondary education; 0.1 percent has an elementary education; and, 5,828 persons (1.4 percent) have academic degrees and titles.

System of Party Educational Institutions

	Number of Educational Institutions as of 1 January 1986	Number of Students Graduating from Them from 1981 to 1986
Academy of Social Sciences at the CPSU Central Committee	1	1,412
--of this number, those enrolled in:		
Main Department		600
Graduate School		280
Correspondence Course Department		532
Republic and Interoblast Higher Party Schools	14	17,408
--of this number, those enrolled in:		
-Two-Year On-Campus Department (for students with higher education)	14	7,064
-Four-Year On-Campus Department (for students with secondary education)	10	2,486
-Three-Year Correspondence Course Department (for students with higher education)	13	4,285
-Five-Year Correspondence Course Department (for students with secondary education)	11	3,573
Institute for Increasing Qualification of Leading Party and Soviet Cadres, Academy of Social Sciences at the CPSU Central Committee	1	6,043
Courses for Increasing Qualification of Party and Soviet Workers	146	257,444

Among members and candidate members of party obkoms and kraykoms, central committees of the union republic communist parties and members of the audit commissions--administrators of enterprises from industry, transportation, communications and construction comprise 7.5 percent of the number elected; administrators of inter-farm enterprises and organizations, 0.1 percent; engineering and technical workers and specialists from agriculture comprise 2.1 percent; party workers, 30 percent; workers from Soviet institutions, 15.3 percent; workers in science, culture, education and health care, 5.2 percent; other categories, 6.4 percent.

Of those elected as members and candidate members of party obkoms and kraykoms, central committees of union republic communist parties, and as members of audit commissions, 69.4 percent have higher education; 0.7 percent have incomplete higher education; 28.8 percent, secondary education; 1.1 percent, incomplete secondary education; and, 2,295 persons (7.2 percent) have academic degrees and titles.

Sixty-four percent of the secretaries of primary party organizations have higher education; 2.8 percent have incomplete higher education; 32.5 percent, secondary education; and 0.7 percent, incomplete secondary education.

Among secretaries of party raykoms, gorkoms and okrug committees, the number of specialists from industrial and agricultural production is increasing. In the last five years it has increased from 65 to 68 percent; moreover, 99.9 percent of the secretaries of the party raykoms, gorkoms and okrug committees have higher education.

At the present time 83 percent of the secretaries of obkoms, kraykoms and union republic communist party central committees are engineers, technicians, economists, and agricultural specialists by education; 99.9 percent of the administrators of these party organs have higher education.

During the last five years, 18,800 people graduated from party educational institutions. More than 263,000 party, Soviet and ideological workers have taken training courses to increase their skills.

Today, the political and economic education system embraces 65,000,000 communists, Komsomol members, and non-party persons.

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CS0: 1800/130

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

PRAVDA HITS KAZAKH MINISTER FOR PROTECTING MANAGER

PM171517 [Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 10 November 1986 Second Edition carries on page 7 under the headline "Extraordinary Occurrence at the No 9 Warehouse" a 1,700-word Alma-Ata report by correspondent T. Yesilbayev on thefts of clothes from Kaztorgodezhda's No 9 Warehouse in Alma-Ata. V. Saranchina, chief of Kaztorgodezhda's Auditing Department, reportedly exposed shortcomings in stocktaking and instances of mismanagement and abuses there, which gave rise to "favorable conditions for all sorts of machinations." The Alma-Ata militia also claimed that "embezzlement on a particularly large scale was facilitated by the fact that [Kaztorgodezhda chief] V. Grazhdankin quite needlessly created reserves of scarce goods worth approximately R1 million at the No 9 Warehouse." After two reprimands, Grazhdankin was finally dismissed, but Saranchina was also dismissed, apparently for being too zealous in her work. The report concludes as follows:

"Shortly before Saranchina's reinstatement N. Tantsyura, the republic's minister of trade, categorically declared: 'We will not give Saranchina back her old job. She is a useless worker who only reports shortcomings...'"

"The minister has a very strange understanding of the party line on principled exactingness toward cadres, on extending publicity, and on demanding open discussion of shortcomings in work, particularly crimes. But what happens here? Someone had only to carry out her official and civic duty honestly to be immediately dismissed. But the minister personally took Grazhdankin under his wing even after the official order dismissing him and managed to get him leave without pay. What is more, he was soon found a new leading post as deputy director of the nonstandard domestic trade equipment plant. True, by then Grazhdankin was such an odious figure that a big fuss was raised over his appointment, which had to be canceled.

"What conclusions did Minister N. Tantsyura draw from this affair? His answer to this question was brief: 'I condemn the existence of warehouse No 9.' Note: He does not condemn the useless work methods in trade establishments, just the warehouse's existence. Close the warehouse, he says, and there will be no more theft, embezzlement, or waste. So simple.... But what about the many other trade enterprises whose work is also complained about? Will not too many of them have to be 'closed' then?

"It is time Alma-Ata Obkom finally drew principled conclusions from all that has happened. Totally honest people must work in trade. We must resolutely rid ourselves of all who have disgraced themselves in any way at all. And we must call to account with all the severity of our party morality those who move failed workers from one leading post to another without a twinge of conscience."

/7051

CSO: 1830/158

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

BELORUSSIAN PROCURATOR, MINISTER OF JUSTICE FIRED

[Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 15 July 1986 carries on page 1 and 1,100-word editorial titled "Democracy and Legality" which criticizes the performance of several Belorussian law enforcement officials. "In the battle with legal violations and unearned income it is important to strictly observe legality. Here, mistakes and carelessness cannot be permitted. Gross violations occurred in Vitebskaya Oblast, where criminal proceedings were instituted against innocent people. These facts were a consequence of the lowering of the accountability of cadres of law enforcement organs for the matters entrusted to them and also of the weak control of their work on the part of the procurators of the BSSR." On 24 October 1986, Moscow PRAVDA in Russian carries on page 3 a 200-word article, also titled "Democracy and Legality" which announces that a number of these officials were punished. The names of the officials and the actions taken against them are listed below. A.I. Mogilnitskiy, former BSSR procurator and N.M. Vydrin, member of the BSSR Supreme Court were both released from their posts and expelled from the party. Former chairmen of the BSSR law enforcement organs and Vitebskaya Oblast Party members G.H. Zhabitskiy, A.G. Bondar, and V.G. Markov were severely reprimanded with a notation on their records. Ye.A. Chkanikov was also reprimanded and released from his post as BSSR minister of justice. In addition, 23 procurators were discharged from the court staffs. /6662

CSO: 1800/165

MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA

PRAVDA HITS SUPPRESSION OF CRITICAL COMMENT

PM171409 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Nov 86 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Criticism and Order"]

[Text] Not for nothing do people say: If there is truth, there will be order. Wherever frankness and broad publicity are affirmed, reciprocal exactingness grows and shortcomings are boldly criticized. And criticism of shortcomings always contributes to progress. Daily life offers numerous examples of this. Here is just one of them.

Sukhumi party gorkom personnel were criticized because the city's food industry was creating large quantities of waste while the party organ seemed not to notice this wastefulness. The problem threatened to become chronic, and it appeared difficult to determine how it was to be approached. But nothing ventured, nothing gained. No sooner was it decided to tackle the question seriously than it became apparent that Sukhumi did have its own advanced experience as well as great opportunities to utilize reserves. Month in, month out the gorkom led the competition under the slogan "For Waste-free Production!" Day in and day out it monitored the introduction of advanced technology into enterprises without any delays. And now there is noticeably more order in the processing of agricultural raw materials.

What is it that conditions such changes. It can be said with certainty: a businesslike and principled attitude to criticism and highly effective criticism as such. This is what is needed in the first place to ensure a hard alloy of words and deeds. Not the deaf ear of indifference to advice and critical observations, but keen interest in the open discussion of pressing problems and a sincere desire to rectify any shortcomings that come to light-- this is what boosts the effectiveness of criticism in the service of order.

At a time of sharp turn following the 27th CPSU Congress, many party committees are building their work on the basis of these very principles. Increasingly broad scope is given to pointed discussions. Bold questioning and critical analysis of results achieved are encouraged and a green light is given to uncompromising struggle against ostentation, economic mismanagement, over-reporting, and other negative phenomena. This process must be constantly deepened so that the atmosphere of exactingness and democracy becomes a norm of life both centrally and locally and governs the work style of every party organization and of all soviet and economic organs.

Reports from collectives show, however, that criticism is still not treated with an honest and comradely attitude everywhere. Some leaders are frightened of the glare of publicity and the boldness of other people's reasoning, and they perceive even the slightest dissatisfaction by people with various instances of disorder almost as an encroachment on a holy of holies, on our very foundations. We must intensify the pressure of truth on such demagoguery and capture the last strongholds from those who uphold the old thinking.

This is important also because some people still believe that criticism from below is incompatible with strict order. Such criticism supposedly disarms demandingness and erodes discipline—which leads to inefficiency. Democracy is all very well, it is said, but everyone must know his place. It seems unnecessary to prove how harmful such ideas can be. It is widespread criticism that strengthens order and helps to combat stagnation and incompetent decision-making by some people.

Of course, there is criticism and criticism. It appears that at times different people can be talking about the same issue, but some come to the point honestly and convincingly while others deliberately shift the accent, carefully juggle with facts, and embellish them with prejudice. Truth in such instances is their least concern. It is necessary to distinguish civic impulse and a keen desire to rectify a situation from the voice of egotism and a desire to besmirch someone's good name or idea. Harshly decrying and bad-mouthing people also look like forms of criticism. But they hinder rather than furthering a cause. And how about the would-be criticism from people who are only playing up to the restructuring? It betrays itself through its lack of urgency, its smooth formulations, and even its impersonal nature. And how about the anonymous letters?

There have been cases when, as soon as a leader has "pinned down" the self-seekers and parasites and introduced stricter responsibility for slackness, anonymous letters slandering a principled person have been sent on their way to superior organs. And even though the claims are not confirmed, commissions visit the collective time after time, giving rise to nervousness and rumors. At times, in order to "stem the flow" of anonymous letters and save troubles, strong leaders are sacrificed and relieved of their duties. Such practice inflicts enormous moral damage: A victory for injustice dampens energy and enables disorder to triumph.

This is something to which many PRAVDA readers urgently draw attention in their letters. Totally supporting the line of renewal in society that was taken by the congress, they convey the following wish to party organs: Be bolder in sweeping away everything that obstructs our acceleration. "We speak of the restructuring as revolutionary," worker B. Baronin writes from Mozdok, for example. "But a revolution always means resolute action. So enough of toothless half-measures in the struggle against bureaucrats, slanderers of honest people, and all other opponents of restructuring! They will not be reformed by persuasion."

Yes, resolute action is the most effective means against negative phenomena. It is also necessary whenever the figure of a suppressor of criticism stands in the way of order. At times officials find it sufficient not to take the proper measures in response to critical observations, to pretend that nothing has happened, and to leave the informant to face the anger of those whom he has criticized—and justice simply cannot raise its head.

Something like that happened to A. Pasichnik from Uzhgorod, team leader at an experimental station and member of the Transcarpathian Oblast party organization's auditing commission. Having noticed that overreporting was rampant at the station and that Director O. Kryz personally was covering up the irregularities, Anna Vasilyevna openly stood up against the defrauding of the state and reported it to the oblast newspaper ZAKARPATSKAYA PRAVDA. It was to be expected that, following the publication of the critical article "Who Needs Untruths?" in that newspaper, the Volovetskiy party raykom would have dealt properly with those who were partial to unearned incomes. It was not to be, however: The buck was passed and instructions were issued that the article was to be discussed at a station party meeting. That was where Pasichnik was really dressed down. And how! After all, workers in the station had to refund to the state more than R12,000 in illegally obtained bonuses. And following the meeting the team leader was not left alone until she resigned "under the force of circumstances." The newspaper recently reopened the story. But neither the raykom nor the Transcarpathian Ukrainian Communist Party Obkom is in a hurry to dot the "i's." Such a stance cannot be described as anything but shortsighted. Any form of suppression of criticism must be eradicated.

The struggle against shortcomings and for the strengthening of discipline and order is being stepped up day by day. It is important to strengthen to the utmost people's creative spirit and to inculcate in them implacability toward routine and stagnation.

Great objectives now lie ahead of the country. And it is the duty of communists to lead working people toward these objectives along paths that have been cleared of obstructions.

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CSO: 1800/167

MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA

TASS ON SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF 'BACKWARD' REPUBLICS

LD311828 Moscow TASS in English 1520 GMT 31 Oct 86

[Text] Moscow, October 31, TASS--By TASS news analyst Petr Lidin

The budget of Estonia (a constituent Soviet republic in the Baltic region) for 1987 takes account of revenues to come from the opening of the [word indistinct] Tallinn port, a new major port facility, now under construction. Although the funds for its building [words indistinct] all-union budget the income will accrue to Estonia. The case is pretty much the same with, say, Kirghizia or Tajikistan, which are using incomes from the operation of hydro-electric stations built on their mountain rivers, although the funds for the projects came from the all-union budget.

This is one in a series of examples demonstrating that now the national republics are enjoying advantages of being part of the Soviet Union.

They speak with pride about these advantages, especially in the run-up to the national holiday of the country observed November 7. On that day back in 1917 the people of Russia accomplished the Great October Socialist Revolution which marked the beginning of drastic political, social and economic changes, and started the process of all-round and rapid development of what formerly were backward outlying regions of the Russian empire.

The USSR is a multinational state inhabited by people of more than 100 nations and nationalities. That is why problems of relations between different nations is of special significance to us. They were summed up by the 27th Congress of the CPSU which stated that the nationalities question inherited from the past had been successfully resolved in the USSR.

And really, over a historically short period of time we managed to close a very wide gap in the levels of development--economic, social, and cultural--of all peoples of the Soviet Union. With the help of more advanced peoples the former backward outlying regions of the country were developing at an accelerated pace and caught up with the leading ones.

This is how the mechanism of re-distribution worked: In 1927-1932 budget allocation for economic development of the Russian Federation doubled, while those for the Transcaucasian republics went up four-fold, in Uzbekistan and Turmenia five-fold, and in Tajikistan nine-fold.

As you can see, favorable conditions were created for the backward republics. In doing so, the Soviet Union managed to resolve the problems which could take centuries to cope with under ordinary conditions.

Equal opportunities have been created for all peoples and nationalities inhabiting the USSR, and this goes not only for the economy. The changes in the social and cultural development of formerly backward peoples are equally impressive. For example, before 1917 a mere 2-3 percent of the population in the Central Asian republics were literate and there were no higher educational establishments there. At present the Central Asian republics have 126 institutions of higher learning and more than 80 percent of the population have higher or secondary education.

Bountiful opportunities have been created for the development of national art in every republic. Consider this: Books by Chingiz Aytmatov, the son of a people whose language had no written system before the revolution, were translated into 90 languages of the world. Recently he invited prominent authors, scientists, and cultural workers from many countries to his native Kirghizia. The meeting made the now famous "Issyk-Kul appeal" for strengthening peace, promoting cooperation and friendship among all nations on earth.

Of course, far from all aspects of the complex and multifaceted nationalities problem were solved. But the main thing was accomplished--there is no national strife or enmity in the Soviet Union.

/8918

CSO: 1812/24

MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA

STRONGER LEADERSHIP OF UZBEK PRESS URGED

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek on 4 May 1986 carries on page 1 a 1,000-word lead editorial entitled "The Powerful Weapon of the Party" which states that the press must play a critical propaganda role in publicizing the successes, shortcomings, and innovations in daily life. There are currently 288 newspapers, including 17 republic, 28 oblast, 9 city, 157 rayon, and 77 other newspapers, as well as 84 journals, published in the republic. Press workers must take a creative, interesting, bold, and skillful approach to covering the tasks outlined by the 27th CPSU Congress. This requires a mastery of the Marxist-Leninist method of analyzing events in social life. While considerable improvement has been made in recent years in the work of the press, a number of serious deficiencies and shortcomings remain. At the beginning of this year the Uzbek CP Central Committee Buro met to discuss party leadership over the press based on the example of the oblast newspapers KHORAM HAQIQATI and KHOREZMSKAYA PRAVDA. It concluded that the substance, militancy, and influence of the newspapers were extremely weak due to slack party leadership, and assigned the Khorezm Obkom the task of reinstating firm control. This directive applied to all newspapers, but because of slack supervision and complacent attitudes various editorial offices have continued to work in the old way and fill the pages of their periodicals with hackneyed materials. Party committees must install firm daily leadership over their press organs and orient them toward effective coverage of current tasks.

UZBEK TV, RADIO CHIEF SURVEYS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek on 7 May 1986 carries on page 2 a 1,200-word article by I. Yusupova, chairperson of the Uzbek SSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, entitled "Means of Construction" in which she discusses the work of republic television and radio. Yusupova cites positive recent trends in programming--discussions of planning and work--which helps expose corruption, bribetaking, irresponsibility, indifference, and shortcomings in transportation, trade, and other sectors. She observes that Tashkent Radio has become one of the largest centers for broadcasts to foreign countries, with broadcasts 10 hours a day in English, Hindi, Urdu, Uighur, Persian, and Arabic, and also in Uzbek for compatriots abroad. The Tashkent television tower was cited as an example of modern technology and

architectural achievement; other projects in Dzhizak Oblast and Bukhara and Namangan cities are also mentioned. The 12th 5-Year Plan calls for new radio stations in Navoi, Termez, and Gulistan, and a television center in Nukus. By the end of the plan period the republic's entire population is scheduled to receive television broadcasts. Currently, republic radio broadcasts 33 hours daily in Uzbek, Russian, Tajik, Kazakh, and Tatar, and television broadcasts for a total of 11 hours a day.

UZBEKS FAULTED FOR WESTERN PORNO, KARATE VIDEO SHOWINGS

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek on 18 May 1986 carries on page 4 a 1,000-word article by correspondent F. Zohidov entitled "Watch Out for Video Poison!" in which he discusses private showings of Western pornography and karate videos in Khorezm Oblast. For example, Komil Valiyev hosted a group of young people, including 16-year old Ravshanbek, in his Urgench home, and showed a videocassette depicting people in shameless "love" scenes that defile true human love, and another video depicting people punching, hitting, and kicking each other. Each person paid 10 rubles to the owner of the cassettes, Ilhom Khojaniyozov, a worker at the Urgench Railroad Station. The author recounts several other specific incidents in which workers paid to attend private video showings in various peoples' homes.

The author states that the use of video equipment is not forbidden, but it should not be used to spread moral corruption and ills alien to Soviet life. He observes that in recent years videos produced abroad that are contrary to humanist standards and socialist principles have begun to multiply in the Soviet Union; certain people of weak conviction have abused their travel privileges and brought in such films. According to the author, speculators receive as much as 150 to 200 rubles per cassette. He urges a stronger application of Soviet law against those who distribute videocassettes that spread the "microbes" of bourgeois ideology.

UZBEK RADIO PIRATES COMBATTED

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek on 12 June 1986 carries on page 4 a 400-word item by UzTAG correspondents S. Indin and V. Pruger entitled "There Must Not Be 'Pirates' on the Airwaves" in which they report on actions taken against individuals who are illegally broadcasting over radio frequencies. According to Sh. Fayziyev of the Angren City Internal Affairs Department, the strongest measures must be taken to prevent pollution of the airwaves. With modern equipment it is not difficult to locate and arrest people who transmit with home-made equipment, and from time to time these pirate are rounded up. Nonetheless, the number of radio hooligans is not declining. Most of those arrested do not learn their lesson. The fines are not large and they find ways of getting their equipment returned. However, there are cases in which their

broadcast have interfered with calls for emergency services and with communications between aircraft and ground controls. A team from the state inspection office for electronic communications conducted a raid in Tashkent Oblast that netted several pirates in Angren City, including individuals who call themselves "Magnet," "Standard," "Shtekker," "Red Cap," and "Meridian." Previous raids netted a man named E. Valiyev, a teacher at the Angren construction tekhnikum, who transmits under the names "Faust" and "Prince." The authors feel it would be rash to call such people lost causes, particularly because some of those who illegally broadcast on radio are teenagers who have no other outlet for their technical creativity. The correspondents fault those responsible for organizing teenagers' free time and call for more vigorous work. Another factor cited in such cases is the lack of a ham radio federation in the oblast.

/12858

CSO: 1830/148

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

PRAVDA EDITORIALIZES ON INTRAPARTY DEMOCRACY

PM031321 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Nov 86 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Party Democracy"]

[Text] The CPSU is a voluntary alliance of like-minded people. This makes for the democratism which characterizes its life. On the basis of equal rights, Communists conduct all the affairs of the party either directly or through comrades elected to leading organs. They are equally responsible for the party and for each other. In Lenin's words, "genuine democratism, as distinct from affected democratism, forms an integral part of the whole, of... the concept of comradeship."

The more strictly intraparty democracy is observed, the more confidently Communists are able to act. The present-day practice of the Moscow City, Krasnodar Kray, and Ulyanovsk Oblast party organizations and of a number of others provides many examples which bear this out. Thanks to the firm establishment of an atmosphere of openness [glasnost], forthrightness [otkrytost], and sincerity [iskrennost], the initiative and principledness of Communists and their mutual exactingness are increasing.

The stance expressed in a satirical poem by Mayakovskiy in the phrase: "There is no need for you and me to think if the leaders are thinking" is not acceptable to members of the CPSU. Indeed, it is necessary to think today. And this applies to one and all. And it is not just necessary to think about how work could be restructured and improved, it is also necessary to work energetically and selflessly, it is necessary literally to fight for the process of restructuring. "Passiveness" cannot be overcome by persuasion and wishful thinking. It is necessary to improve the way in which instructions are issued and their execution is monitored and in which Communists' character reference reports are drawn up to eradicate the soft approach which is inappropriate when assessing the stance of party members. Only by means of joint efforts along the path of the development of intraparty democracy, which presupposes firm and conscious discipline among other things, will it be possible once and for all to overcome inertia and the shirking of responsibility.

The consistent firm application of the principle of collective leadership is a most important precondition of party organizations' healthy, full-blooded life. Collective leadership provides a protection against the subjectivist ideas and

peremptory instructions of certain overzealous people. The role of collective organs--party committee plenums, bureaus, and party meetings--in the elaboration of decisions and the monitoring of their execution and of the activity of cadres is growing noticeably. This is ensured, as a rule, by means of a more thorough preparation of the examination of pressing issues and the creation of an atmosphere conducive to a free and businesslike exchange of views.

Thus the preparation and the course of the Lvov Ukrainian Communist Party Gorkom devoted to tasks of improving ideological work did not follow the set pattern. What did actually happen? To begin with, the gorkom members invited activists to a "roundtable discussion" to clarify the working draft of the report. Subsequently its propositions were discussed by gorkom members also in major party committees. The result was a shorter but more pointed and self-critical report. And the debate was more heated and meaningful. No preliminary list of speakers was compiled, however there were so many people who wanted to express their views that the rules had to be "stretched" and people were allowed to contribute directly from the floor. As a result, in 2 and 1/2 hours, 25 people were able to put forth their views. And the latest plenum here opened with a detailed report about what has become of the proposals and critical remarks voiced at the previous meeting.

Meanwhile, certain people still believe that the main task in preparing and holding a plenum or a meeting is to organize the "event" along well-established lines, drawing up a list specifying in advance who is going to speak, in what order, and even about what. What is this if not a profanation of party democracy. It also reveals a desire to continue to deal with paper rather than people, to take refuge behind paper from the complexities of life and the irreversible advance of restructuring. Indeed, restructuring is irreversible and nobody will be able to sit it out. It is oriented toward the full and unswerving application of democratic principles in Communists' work.

Developing intraparty democracy we must not forget however that its standard is not determined by the duration of meetings and sessions and the length of speeches. The main thing is to ensure really collective practical work and a disciplined, responsible attitude of people to their duties. Under no circumstances must verbiage take the place of live action and specific steps toward the implementation of restructuring must not be replaced by airy-fairy projects and daydreams.

A great deal depends on the atmosphere in primary party organizations. If it is characterized by principled mutual relations between Communists and great openness in everything, then the strength of the primary party organizations manifests itself especially vividly. Here party members must above all assume responsibility for their work and their actions. The translation of this provision of the statutes into reality enhances the independence and the authority of the grassroots components of the party. Unfortunately, certain party committees still prefer to sidestep the grassroots components in their work, they curb the initiative of primary organizations by subjecting them to too many regulations, and they do not bother to establish contacts with them.

Wherever people have not learned to listen to the voice of Communists, to consult with people, accurate assessments and conclusions and competent leadership cannot be expected. A downright curious fact came to light at the most recent Mari CPSU Obkom plenum. In his report V. Zotin, first secretary of the Volzhsk gorkom said that the bureau which he heads had approved the experience of the timber processing association's party organization in the certification of work places. It is true, he failed to give any details about the nature of this experience. Did he know anything about it? He did not seem to know anything either about something else that another plenum participant reported, namely that in the course of the report and election party meetings Communists at the enterprise had stated with alarm that their working conditions, to put it mildly, were far from exemplary, that a substantial part of the equipment was worn out, that there were frequent stoppages.... In other words, rather than generalizing the experience, it was time to sound the alarm. This is what happens when, not bothering to find out about the true state of affairs and Communists' opinions, people fall under the spell of "favorable" reports on paper.

In the thick of the struggle for restructuring, Communists' political awareness and their sense of self-esteem are growing. There are fewer of those who even yesterday were too shy to call a spade a spade, who did not dare to speak out against the loafers, windbags, and slanderers who are trying to stay in the saddle, there are fewer people willing to put up with violations of intraparty democracy and discipline. For a long time Leninist norms and principles were distorted in Tashauz Oblast, for instance. People in the leadership there were conniving at overreporting, misrepresentation, and deception of the state and fell victim to their attitude of total license. This resulted in the corruption of a certain section of the cadres. PRAVDA readers know how it all ended: B. Atayev, first secretary of the Tashauz Turkmen Communist Party Obkom, K. Mollayev, chairman of the oblispolkom, and N. Lomov, the obkom secretary were removed from their posts and expelled from the party.

On the firm basis of the all-around development of intraparty democracy, in the exacting atmosphere of party comradeship and businesslike open criticism and self-criticism. Communists are stepping up their efforts to firmly establish a healthy moral and political climate everywhere. In this lies a reliable guarantee of the further democratization of society, the deepening of the socialist self-government of the people, and, consequently, of the country's accelerated socioeconomic development.

/8309

CS0: 1800/158

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

PRAVDA ON REVOLUTION MOVEMENT AT END OF CENTURY

PM181012 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Nov 86 Second Edition pp 2-3

[Article by Candidate of Historical Sciences Ye. Plimak under the rubric "Questions of Theory": "Marxism-Leninism and Revolution at the End of the 20th Century"—capitalized passages between slantlines are printed in boldface]

[Text] The successes of the proletariat's liberation struggle are inseparable from progress in social science and the development of revolutionary theory. That theory, V.I. Lenin wrote, "cannot be invented, it /GROWS OUT/ of the totality of revolutionary experience and revolutionary thinking in all countries of the world" (Complete Collected Works, Vol 27, p 11).

The activity of the leaders of the proletariat—Marx, Engels, and Lenin—confirmed that the science which they created is a vast field constantly open for further exploration. And that is not surprising. This science studies society, a subject characterized by inexhaustibility, enormous complexity, and dynamism.

The further creative development of Marxist-Leninist teaching, as is noted in the 27th CPSU Congress documents, is regarded by the party as its most important duty.

The victory of October laid the foundations for replacing capitalism with a new, communist social and economic formation. Since the defeat of fascism socialism has done much to squeeze out capitalism and has become a world system. Imperialism's colonial system has disintegrated. But capitalism has not left the historical arena. Countries where it has attained a high level of development are not yet on the threshold of proletarian revolution.

Marxism's critics frequently cite this fact as evidence of its "bankruptcy." In fact, however, Marxism itself, as long ago as the mid-19th century, began to highlight the factors making it "more difficult" for profound revolutionary movements to emerge in specifically those states with the highest level of industrial development, states which are marked by the majority of the objective, material prerequisites for socialism. In 1850 K. Marx wrote of the peculiar situation in Britain and the countries of continental Europe: "Violent disturbances must naturally take place earlier on the peripheries of the bourgeois organism than in its heart, where there is more room for compensatory changes."

At the same time F. Engels noted the processes of bourgeoisification of the British proletariat. He linked these processes to the monopoly position of capitalist Britain in the world as it then was and to the growth of nationalism in Britain (see K. Marx, F. Engels, Works, Vol 7, p 100; Vol 28, p 122; Vol 29, p 293). In 1917 V.I. Lenin identified the "handful of the richest imperialist countries" whose ruling classes make a (relatively) very large section of their population /PARTICIPANTS/ in the sharing out of imperialist booty. In his last works he noted that a number of Western states had managed to create a semblance of "social peace" within themselves (see Vol 34, p 371; Vol 45, p 402).

At the same time the founders of Marxism also noted the substantial progress of the proletariat within the framework of bourgeois democracy. In 1864 K. Marx placed an extremely high value on the gains of the British proletariat in the stubborn 30-year struggle over the "10-hour working day bill." F. Engels, at the end of his life, embarked on the study of "revolutions from above" and the opportunities which they open up for the proletariat. In 1922 V.I. Lenin even mentioned one of the "few opportunities for peaceful evolution of capitalism toward the new system, which we, as communists, do not have much faith in, but which we are prepared to try to help"; he linked the possibility of realizing this opportunity to the activity of social democracy and "Keynesian" democracy (see Vol 44, p 407).

Many years have passed since then. As the new edition of the CPSU Program notes, in the attempt to adapt to the changed situation capitalism is constantly maneuvering. The confrontation with socialism and the intensity of the class struggle have forced it to change. And capitalism has been able to bring considerable reserves into play. It has put on a technological spurt (the latest phase is the so-called microprocessor revolution). State monopoly tendencies have been sharply intensified: modern capitalist production is entirely impossible without state and now suprastate regulation of the economy. Imperialism's colonial system has collapsed, but neocolonialist methods have "made good" the loss. Transnational corporations have emerged, extending their sphere of influence to whole regions of the planet. In the postwar decades there has been substantial growth in per capita gross national product. Social democracy (like "Keynesian" democracy) has helped to create and improve the very machinery of evolution of bourgeois society.

The question arises: How are such changes to be assessed?

First of all, let me stress: These changes have not affected the /NATURE OF CAPITALISM/. The stimulus to production in the Western countries is still to obtain the maximum profit. The exploitation of the working class has assumed more sophisticated forms and is oriented increasingly toward increasing the return on the working people's nervous and mental energy. The economy of the bourgeois society is still destabilized by numerous crises. The level of unemployment is high. The polarization of poverty and wealth persists. The working people's economic and social gains, won in bitter class battles, are not at all stable. They are eroded by unemployment and chronic inflation, and the neoconservatives who have come to power in the United States, the FRG,

Britain, and France have also embarked on a broad dismantling of social programs. The demands of the working class have increased considerably, but they are largely channeled by the ruling classes into the "pursuit of material possessions" and are accompanied by spiritual impoverishment of the individual. The masses' dissatisfaction with the capitalist way of life itself is expressed increasingly broadly and diversely. Capitalism also greatly exacerbates the problems of worldwide development. All this makes the communist parties in capitalist countries seek a way of making a radical break with capitalism. This is conceived above all as the peaceful path of socialist revolution.

The peaceful path of revolution is impossible without the observance of a number of essential conditions. This means the creation of a stable, broad class and political alliance of forces accomplishing the revolution--under the leadership of the revolutionary proletarian vanguard. It means the transformation of the existing representative organs of state power into organs of revolutionary transformations--combining parliamentary and extraparliamentary forms of struggle and ensuring the maximum flexibility of the parties leading the revolution so as to guard against either anticipating events or lagging behind them. The peaceful path of revolution is also inconceivable without the curbing of extremism on both the left and the right and the suppression of open counterrevolution. The experience of Chile (and to some extent Portugal) in the seventies showed that these conditions have not yet been observed.

The difficulties of leading the masses onto a peaceful path of socialist revolution have also emerged in capitalist countries which are more developed than Chile or Portugal. While adopting, in a number of cases, a democratic alternative to capitalism, the masses are, for the most part, not yet capable of adopting the socialist alternative. Moreover, the alliance of communist parties with socialist parties, where the latter have accepted such an alliance (in France, for instance), has been entered into on the basis that the socialists are in a position of supremacy, and their attainment of a parliamentary majority has changed little. The socialists, and especially their right wing, have made it their task in practice to ensure the "normal" functioning of the bourgeois organism, although there has sometimes been discussion of the need for a radical restructuring of that organism.

It should also be noted that the method by which the revolution is accomplished cannot but affect the nature of the new power. In recent decades there have been major disputes in certain communist parties over the concept of the "dictatorship of the proletariat." Various reasons are cited for renouncing this. But what is most important is not the disputes over terminology, but the crux of the matter: You cannot ignore the lessons of history.

Nonpeaceful revolution differs substantially from peaceful revolution: The latter makes use of many of the political institutions created by the bourgeoisie, the former destroys them; in this connection the very forms of the struggle of the opposing forces and the scale of the new power's encroachment on existing relations are changed. But revolution always means compulsion [prinuzhdeniye], it is inconceivable without certain forms of /DIKTAT/. The peaceful path of revolution means not the renunciation of class struggle, but its implementation in particular forms. The revolution cannot be confined within the walls of the

parliament, actions "from above" must be backed up by actions from below—otherwise the victory achieved will inevitably come to nothing. There cannot be an absolutely "pure" peaceful revolution; such a revolution evidently has more chance of remaining peaceful the broader the masses it wins over. Nor can a peaceful revolution be "purely" socialist, since it presupposes a far greater readiness for compromises with nonproletarian forces and a more prolonged, more gradual course of transformations (with possible retreats).

The ideas of the founders of Marxism have been graphically confirmed in the course of the revolutionary struggle of the peoples of colonial and semi-colonial countries.

The East has by and large demonstrated the promising nature of the historical path opened up by socialist Russia: the creation of leading forms of state power by means of which to bring a relatively backward country up to the heights of world production and world culture. At the same time it is the East which has, over the last 50 years, yielded the multiplicity of forms of struggle foreseen by V.I. Lenin. Within this struggle, which is marked by a common anti-imperialist orientation and the preponderance of national features, there have been peaceful and nonpeaceful movements, guerrilla and parliamentary struggle, movements of "nonmilitary" anti-imperialist resistance and anti-imperialist wars. There have been and are superficial and profound coups, leaps forward and retreats. The composition of forces involved in the movement has proved to be unique, and the special role of the army, the narodnik type of intelligentsia [reference to 19th century Russian narodnik movement which sought to achieve socialism via the peasant commune, bypassing capitalism], and religious leaders has become apparent. The formation of various types of unstable symbiosis of nationalism and socialism is in general characteristic of many countries which have won liberation.

Experience in the East has also confirmed the fact pointed out by Lenin in relation to Russia: Whereas in Europe it is "immeasurably harder to begin," in Russia "it will be harder to continue the revolution" (Vol 36, p 10). Young states following the capitalist path can evidently not repeat the classical pattern of bourgeois development. On the other hand, it is extremely difficult for countries of a socialist orientation to establish the prerequisites for socialism. Both groups of countries are hampered by archaic traditional structures, economic backwardness which has accumulated over centuries, and the difficulties of creating a new statehood. The liberated countries' development is retarded to a tremendous extent by neocolonialism. Military conflicts are not uncommon between these countries, and internal conflicts between groups of revolutionaries also tell. But in the main the liberated countries have become a factor of tremendous positive significance in the modern world.

In the 20th century, and especially at the end of the century, an entirely new factor has also emerged--the globalization of highly complex, diverse forms of revolutionary struggle.

Even in World War I, the forces of destruction did tremendous damage to human civilization. World War II, unleashed by fascism, was no mere repetition of the first war, it led to a major leap forward in the development of the forces of destruction. The sinister mushrooms over Hiroshima and Nagasaki marked mankind's entry into the nuclear age.

The use of ultrapowerful weapons against the two Japanese cities was not occasioned by military necessity. With this act American imperialism announced its claims to diktat in international relations. Nor has it renounced these claims to this day. The consequences of this reckless policy are common knowledge. Such a quantity of means of mass destruction has been accumulated in the world that all living things could be destroyed many times over. The mortal danger hanging over mankind is multiplied many times over by the U.S. Administration's plans to take the arms race into space.

All this brings to the forefront the struggle for peace and for real guarantees of people's right to life. If these rights are not ensured, there will be nothing to transform, to improve, or to rectify.

The teaching developed by V.I. Lenin on peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems is gaining inestimable significance today. Raised to a new theoretical and practical level by the CPSU, it makes it possible to lead mankind away from the brink of the nuclear abyss.

This is the aim of the new major, fundamental foreign policy acts of the Soviet Union. They are dictated by the need to overcome the negative, confrontational trends which have grown up in recent years and to clear the way for the complete ending of the nuclear arms race on earth and its prevention in space, the general lessening of the danger of war, and the establishment of constructive, creative cooperation among states on a planetwide scale.

Detente does not open up a "one-way street." It is the path to a reorganization of the world in such a way that every people would be able to build their life in the way they consider necessary--without fear of outside interference, ensuring a peaceful life not by means of the suicidal arms race, but on the basis of collective security, resolving national questions, and embarking on the joint solution of worldwide problems (and here, apart from the curbing of militarism, many other global problems have arisen).

Marx envisaged a united mankind as being built on communist foundations. The emergence of global problems raises the task of making mankind a single, interdependent whole, living a peaceful life, even in the conditions of a socially heterogeneous world.

The times demand a new way of thinking--this was stressed once again at M.S. Gorbachev's meeting with the participants in the "Issyk-kul Forum." "...A new way of political thinking, in line with the realities of the nuclear age," M.S. Gorbachev noted, "is an essential condition for emergence from the

critical situation in which mankind finds itself at the close of the 20th century. Profound changes are needed in the political thinking of the entire human community." The demand for "profound changes" also applies to the Marxist theory of the class struggle--it too must help to find a way out of the critical situation and study the question of the paths of social renewal of the world in the highly complex new situation.

"...Our ideal has no room for violence against people," V.I. Lenin wrote concerning the supreme goal of the proletariat's policy (Vol 30, p 122). The successes of socialism and democratic forces are now such as to make it possible to pose the question of expelling violence from the arena of history as an immediate, practical task; the humanist thrust of proletarian policy truly represents salvation at the present critical moment for mankind.

Back in the late 19th century Engels wrote: "If conditions have changed for war between peoples, they have changed equally for the class struggle" (K. Marx, F. Engels, Works, Vol 22, p 544). In the late 20th century this relationship gains particular significance and relevance. In the nuclear age, in conditions where the world is saturated and oversaturated with "conventional" and "nonconventional" weapons and the whole world is enmeshed in military alliances and blocs, violence can easily change from the "midwife" of history into its "gravedigger." Social birth pangs could prove to be social death. This fact could not but affect the actions of revolutionary forces, and not only them. The socialist countries, many of the liberated countries, and a number of capitalist countries are already raising the question of finally expelling violence from the sphere of interstate relations.

In the seventies collective Marxist thinking issued a very important warning: The problem of choosing the correct forms of struggle is now becoming the problem of mankind's very existence. I believe this situation goes far beyond the framework of a purely tactical quest. The struggle of opposing class forces does not disappear in the nuclear age. But our times teach us to develop compromise forms of the struggle too, and practice them widely. There is no departure from revolutionary Marxism here. It is Marxism which has engaged in abrupt changes in the forms of struggle as historical conditions change.

True, the world is a mosaic and the conditions of revolutionary struggle are diverse. Moreover it was armed struggle which largely secured the victory of formerly oppressed peoples (although many of the liberated countries won independence by peaceful means). The preservation of dictatorial regimes in a number of countries and the increased export of counterrevolution do not allow the removal of armed forms of struggle from the agenda even in our day. All the same, it must be recognized that the position of some countries as, to some extent, "exceptions" to the general conditions of the nuclear age, like the possibility of imitating today the models of the "prenuclear" age, is relative; moreover any local conflict has a tendency to grow into a regional or even a world conflict. The nuclear age requires revolutionary forces to exercise extreme caution in taking decisions about the armed struggle and to renounce in a principled way the various manifestations of leftist extremism. On the other hand, this age has by no means removed the need to resolutely rebuff reaction and counterrevolution where they try by force to eliminate the people's democratic and socialist gains and reverse historical progress.

Since capitalism still remains in the world, the nuclear age, far from removing the fitful, spasmodic, uneven, contradictory nature of social development, has actually exacerbated it. But it has also made this tendency to conflict extremely dangerous, and obliges mankind to put all his effort into preventing catastrophe.

The path to a world without mutual distrust, without mountains of nuclear weapons, without the threat of self-destruction, is still barred by obstacles, above all SDI. This is indicated by the results of the Reykjavik meeting. But the obstacles must be removed--mankind has no other choice, no other path.

Threads from the past stretch into the present. And everything possible must be done to ensure that they do not break in the future.

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RELIGION

UNOFFICIAL ISLAM THRIVES IN NAMANGAN OBLAST

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek on 16 May 1986 carries on page 3 a 700-word article by correspondent Sh. Kholmirezayev entitled "Simpletons and Frauds" in which he discusses various cases of unofficial religious activities in Namangan Oblast.

Local imams are said to take advantage of the residents; the author cites two cases to demonstrate this. The first example concerns an imam who helped pilgrims make the Haj in their imagination (as legitimate as the real thing, according to the holy man) for a small fee. A second case involves a worker who pressured his colleagues to give alms, although this practice is illegal. The author criticizes the trend in which officials and party members merely look the other way, or let such miscreants get by with the minimum punishment. Some communists and leaders even take part in religious rituals and ceremonies, Kholmirezayev observes. He notes that some party committees are violating party rules and ethics in allowing such activities to continue, and urges more vigorous efforts to improve and implement atheist education.

UZBEK ROUNDTABLE ON NEW CUSTOMS, SURVIVAL OF ISLAM

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek on 22 May 1986 carries on page 3 a 3,700-word item by R. Qosimov and M. Pirmatov entitled "The Newest Traditions Are the Adornment of Our Life" in which they report the comments of participants in a roundtable discussion on propagation of the newest customs in conjunction with atheistic education. O. Umurzokova, deputy director of the Institute of Philosophy and Law, recognizes that in recent years atheist education has been conducted with cliches and hackneyed terms. The press has provided scant coverage to social and atheistic themes and to people who have renounced religion. This has made it possible for unofficial associations to form and teach religious doctrine to women and children.

E. Hatamov, first secretary of the Bekabad Raykom, states that rayon party organizations are stepping up atheistic work and taking firm action against communists who take part in religious customs and ceremonies. The Chanok and Dalvarzin village soviets have halted the activities of people making profits as mullahs and ishans.

PhD A. Abdusamedov, chairman of the Department of the History and Theory of Atheism of Tashkent University, points out that some people perceive various religious customs as belonging to national culture. They slyly present "purified" Islam as part of a sentiment of nationalism, taking advantage of the prestige of the elderly who are more disposed to religion, and try to mix national and religious feelings. Some religious customs and holidays continue to be observed within the family or in narrow circles where it is difficult to exert influence. Abdusamedov believes that the predilection of women to continue in the traditional role at home because of superstitions and religious vestiges impedes the eradication of religion and leads family members to take part in such customs as Kurban and Ramadan.

Doctor of Medicine Kh. Alimov, professor at the Medical Institute of Tashkent State University, focuses on the religious fast and remarks that fasting is extremely harmful to a person's health. A person who fasts is hungry for 12 or more hours, leading to bad effects on the acids in the stomach and also resulting in overeating after the fast. According to the republic Ministry of Health 80 percent of all stomach and intestinal illnesses occur in the months around Ramadan.

Hatamov comments that atheist education is weak at higher schools. Some young people who graduate still engage in religious customs because they have fallen under the influence of those who are not free of vestiges of the past. He stresses that atheist education must be rebuilt at higher and secondary schools and must also be taken into the neighborhoods, even though the latter is very difficult work.

Abdusamedov remarks that the practice of arranged marriages still survives among certain groups. Ahmadkhonova adds to this and states that many women still wear the veil in Namangan Oblast; she blames this on the husbands of such women enforcing the custom. Unmarried girls she observes, never cover up before going out in public.

Participants also commented on the continued religious influence on funeral and burial ceremonies and on the need to take concrete steps to propagate the newest customs and ceremonies.

UZBEK ATHEIST EDUCATION CRITICIZED, IMPROVEMENTS URGED

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek on 22 May 1986 carries on page 1 a 1,000-word lead editorial entitled "Productiveness in Atheist Education" which points out that the problem of antireligious propaganda and atheist education is one of the most serious ones facing republic party organizations. Several organizations have given free rein to backward customs and traditions and view with indifference cases that violate party rules and ethics. They are criticized for not being sufficiently stringent with comrades who try to mix party principles with religious superstitions. The editorial calls "unacceptable" the religious

situations in various areas of Namangan Oblast; unofficial religious associations are said to operate illegally in oblast cities and villages. Atheist education work in Syrdarya, Dekhanabad, Dzhizak, Urgut, and Chirackchi Rayons was also criticized. These raykoms are urged to analyze their situations, be more principled, and become more exacting with the primary party organizations. Certain layers of the population are observed to continue with religious customs and ceremonies; they are said to frequent "holy" places and turn to tabibs and prayer reciters for treatment of illnesses. The editorial calls on sociologists, historians, and philosophers to study the Islamic and pre-Islamic traditions and the causes of religious feelings, and to determine ways of fighting them. Recent letters to the editorial office note how religious views impede man's development and fully approve the new customs that have arisen from socialist reality and progress.

UZBEK ANTIRELIGIOUS TRACT REVIEWED

[Editorial Report] Tashkent OZBEKISTON ADABIYOTI VA SAN ATI in Uzbek on 27 June 1986 carries on page 7 a 600-word review by Candidates of Philosophy Malik Oripov and Muhiddin Daliyev entitled "Aspects of Atheist Education" in which they review Iso Jabborov's "Khudolar, avliyolar va odamlar" [Gods, Saints, and Men] Tashkent: Yosh Gvardiya, 1986. The book examines the origins of various religious concepts and customs among nationalities; the establishment of religions, including Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; and the attitudes of past philosophers and various modern social systems toward religion. According to the author, religious convictions consist of concepts connected with gods, prophets, angels, saints, devils, and other spirits which over the centuries have become entrenched in various customs, ethics, and behaviors. However, the psychological conditions which facilitate the rise of religious convictions are factors such as individual suffering, hopelessness, unhappiness, alienation, disease, fear of death, and loneliness. Religious leaders try to manipulate such emotions and often influence people suffering from them to follow mistaken beliefs in heavenly forces. The author shows that ills of the past often coexist with religious vestiges, so that work aimed at eliminating past ills should be integrated with atheist education. According to the reviewers, the author's comprehensible style and his use of ethnographic materials and folk literature increase the interest and value of the work.

UZBEK MOSQUE OFFICIAL TRIED FOR SHOWING VIDEOS

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek on 29 June 1986 carries on page 3 an 1,100-word article by Usmon Yusupov entitled "Unmasked" in which he discusses the background, arrest and trial of Ismoil Egamberdiyev, trustee of the Chinabad Mosque in Balikchi Rayon of Andizhan Oblast. In his 30's, Egamberdiyev adopted the clothing, carriage and speech of an ishan and used his imposing figure to deceive simple people and gain

prestige and money. He learned that a man named A. Qodirov owned a video cassette recorder and numerous videos and was making money showing them to people. Egamberdiyev borrowed the machine and six video tapes, purchased another three tapes at the Andizhan Bazaar, and drove to Dzhizak City. There he asked acquaintances to spread the word that he was charging 5-10 kopecks per person to see the videos. An audience gathered in the home of Mamatqul Abdujalilov, a driver for the Bakhmal Rayispolkom. None of the viewers were aware that Egamberdiyev was a mosque trustee. After five showings, he was caught in a raid led by the Bakhmal Rayon procurator and internal affairs chief, who seized the VCR, nine pornographic videos, and all sorts of religious books and materials belonging to Egamberdiyev. Yusupov states that the false ishan is on trial in the Bakhmal Rayon People's Court and that his deeds demonstrate the false and deceptive nature of his religious activities.

UZBEK ATHEIST LECTURER PROFILED

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek on 11 July 1986 carries on page 2 a 1,200-word article by correspondent N. Naimov entitled "In Harmony With People" in which he profiles atheistic lecturer Gulsara Qayumova, communist and teacher of library sciences and speech at the Bukhara Cultural Tekhnikum for Teachers. She also heads the tekhnikum's People's University for Scientific Atheism, from which 50 youths get diplomas every 2 years and which has trained over 300 atheist lecturers. In conducting her work she is aware that over the centuries Islam has poisoned the minds of people by permeating their lives with hundreds of religious ceremonies. Thus, purifying their minds from the opiate of religion depends on eliminating harmful customs and replacing them with new customs arising from socialist life. Qayumova has endeavored to introduce dozens of such customs, such as seeing off young men called up into service, holding komsomol weddings, honoring labor and party veterans, and so forth. She knows that it is impossible to get positive results in atheist education by merely castigating superstitions and archaic customs. She has organized a number of "tea talks" in her neighborhood as well as in teahouses, cafes, and clubs in the city. During these talks she explains the reactionary nature of various religious customs and shows a film that exposes the secrets of holy places. Recently the neighborhood committee chairman asked her to get involved with the case of Abubakr Atoyev, whose father has been a mullah for many years and is teaching his son prayers and rituals so that he will carry on his work. This has had a negative effect on the teenager's spirit and his school studies. The chairman and Qayumova spoke with Abubakr several times and helped him to resist his father's demands. Now, Abubakr is studying at one of the city's school-internats.

UZBEK RAYKOM CHIEF REMOVED FOR RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek on 6 August 1986 carries on page 3 a 2,200-word article by special correspondents A. Rahimberdiyev and J. Mamatov entitled "Unprincipled" in which they explain why the Uzbek Central Committee Buro removed Samarkand Raykom First Secretary M. Sherqulov. As director of the Bagizagan Sovkhoz in 1974-1982 Sherqulov proved to be a skilled organizer, an important factor in his elevation to first secretary. However, because he devoted all his attention to production problems and plan quotas, ideological and political education work suffered and atheist education was slack. As a result various sovkhoz members sank into superstitious practices. On sovkhoz territory there was a cemetery where religious adherents began to glorify a grave they called Bandikushod-ota and another "holy grave" they called Bibimushkulkushod. They spread legends about a large caravan transporting slaves that supposedly passed through there. At this site the slaves rebelled and in the fight one slave died and was buried. He became a saint and miraculously freed the other slaves. Worshipers called him Bandikushod. As for Bibimushkulkushod, she apparently eases the hardships of people. Various simple, weak-willed persons in the village fell for this and, with the help of certain farm officials, even built a tomb over the grave. Sherqulov was sovkhoz director at the time this tomb was built. He and the village soviet chief saw the old writing on the gravestone and took it for a historical monument; they ignored the pilgrimages made to the site, and the money and sacrificed animals that were left as offerings. When the tomb was finished, pilgrimages increased, and the village elected a shaikh to guard the holy place. In 1985 the whole problem of pilgrimages to the site and the activities of religious fakes there was brought up by the raykom, but Sherqulov, now first secretary, vacillated and took no action. Finally, in January 1986, Rayispolkom Deputy Chairman M. Jumayev appealed to scholars to investigate Bandikushod. Scholars concluded that the gravestone bore the inscription "Sultanarayi, daughter of Amir Shaikh Yusuf, died 862 A.H. [1458 AD]." Amir Shaikh Yusuf was a military leader in Ulugbek's time. In fact, no saint was ever buried there. This fact aroused the anger of those duped by the religious fakes. At a village meeting they demanded that the grave be opened. People saw for themselves there were no remains either in the grave or below it, or in the grave of Bibimushkulkushod. It became known that this "holy place" was created by fake shaikhs in the 1970's. Villagers recalled that there was no "holy grave" when they used to plant cotton there.

In the last 2 and 1/2 years the problem of atheist education was discussed eight times by the raykom buro and twice by party activists. Over 300 lectures and talks on atheistic themes were given. But the results of these and other measures were poor. In January 1986 the raykom buro reviewed the problem of pilgrimages to Bandikushod, but failed to take principled action. Raykom secretaries took an unprincipled stance, characteristic of its leadership and work in general. In April the Samarkand Obkom Buro reviewed the question of the illegally built tomb and told Sherqulov to increase atheistic education in the rayon. Finally, in July the Uzbek CP Central Committee Buro correctly evaluated the raykom, removed Sherqulov, and demoted him.

UNOFFICIAL RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES IN UZBEKISTAN SCORED

[Editorial Report] Tashkent OZBEKISTON ADABIYOTI VA SANATI in Uzbek on 15 August 1986 carries on pages 2 and 7 a 2,000-word article by special correspondent Abdunabi Haydarov entitled "The Devil's Confession" in which he discusses various cases of unofficial religious activities. In the USSR every citizen has freedom of personal conviction and conscience, but there are immoral people who abuse this right and exploit religion to make money. He observes that they usually are found scurrying around mosques and holy places. For example most people know about the grave of Parpi-ota in Akhangaron. Although it actually consists of a cave 2 or 3 meters high religious frauds claim that a saint is buried here. There is an uninterrupted flow of pilgrims, particularly from Tashkent and Leninabad Oblasts on Wednesdays. Infertile women, victims of dog bites, or people afraid of the dark kiss the grave, slaughter animals, and plead for deliverance. It is difficult to find anyone who has actually been cured, but still they come. Some young people are falling under religious influence either through their parents or others. The author likens these religious vestiges to contagious diseases; they must be prevented or treated where they appear.

SHIITE, OTHER HOLY SITES EXPOSED IN UZBEKISTAN

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek on 22 August 1986 carries on page 4 a 1,000-word article by UzTag correspondent B. Alimov titled "If There Was No Prophet, Where Did His Descendant Come From?" in which he discusses the exposure of various holy places in Uzbekistan, including the Site of Shahimardan, which supposedly contained the remains of Ali's descendant. According to legend, the remains of Ali's descendant were brought to his site in Khamzabad on a white camel; the area has been considered holy ground for many years. Pilgrims often visited the burial site, and a brisk trade in religious and holy souvenirs developed. The author worries for the future of these enterprising young merchants (most of them young children) and believes that they may continue to form deep ties with religion because of their early activities. Alimov states that the legend has been proven false according to recent scientific, historical, and geographical research. The author also discusses several other holy sites--the Sadpir Cemetery in Kasansay in the Fergana Valley, a place in Narin Rayon, and various locales in Namangan Oblast--which have been exposed as false shrines. He urges constant, unceasing work to educate the local populations as to the true nature of these holy sites.

UZBEKS CRITICIZED FOR SEEKING TABIBS RATHER THAN MEDICAL CARE

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek on 26 August 1986 carries on page 3 an 800-word article by A. Ergashev, physician at the republic Sanitation Education House, entitled "The Tabib's Illness" in which he discusses several cases of people with broken bones consulting tabibs

instead of medical doctors. All of these incidents resulted in improper treatment of the injuries. The author estimates that some 20 percent of all patients with broken bones consult tabibs, bone-setters, and self-styled doctors before going to doctors. As an example, the author notes that the clinic of the republic Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics treated nearly 4,000 patients with broken bones last year. Of this number 243 had consulted a tabib first. Their delay in seeking qualified treatment cost the state 1,350 rubles per patient instead of the normal 450 rubles.

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CULTURE

EXCERPT OF BEK'S ANTI-STALIN NOVEL APPEARS IN WEEKLY

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[Excerpt from the novel "Novoye naznachenije" [The New Assignment] by Aleksandr Bek]

[Text] Aleksandr Bek's novel "Novoye naznachenije", a part of that great writer's literary legacy, will be published in the magazine ZNAMYA. The story focuses on a collective image of major administrators and specialists of the 1930's, 40's and 50's. Bek gives an artistic cross section of that era with all its drama, heroism, contradictions and accomplishments.

The novel "Novoye naznachenije", as is customary for Bek, is based on documentary material, but the author goes on to make broad generalizations. Both real and fictional heroes figure in the novel. The authors poses pointed questions which remain relevant even today concerning Soviet democracy and legality, the ethics of leadership, and technological innovation.

We publish below an excerpt from the novel.

* * *

THE NEW ASSIGNMENT

Some months later Onisimov was appointed people's commissar of steel rolling and founding, or as he was called, the steel commissar.

At that time industrial administration was being broken down into smaller units: a People's Commissariat for Ferrous Metallurgy, which was in charge of the entire huge economy of the iron ore-producing regions, the mining of fluxes and coke production, and a somewhat smaller people's commissariat, with its own specialized tasks, which was entrusted to Onisimov.

In the fall of 1940 Onisimov had already set out on a long tour of plants in his new capacity.

Exactly one year before the Second World War had broken out in Europe, right next door to the Soviet Union. Hitler's divisions had broken Poland almost with a single blow. A little while later armored columns had burst into France and forced it to capitulate. Then the war had seemed to fall silent for a time. How long would that last? Would not our hour as well soon strike?

The commissar's itinerary also included Kurakovka. It was there that Onisimov ran into the younger Golovnya again.

It was a warm day of Indian summer. The two of them walked together through the cramped yard of old Kurakovka, so different from the the expansive plants in the newly constructed metallurgical combines, with their far-flung roads: Onisimov, tall but with his head hunched down between his shoulders, always in his soft, dark-colored hat, dark, worn suit, the invariable attire of Dickens' petty clerks, and the 30-year-old director, striding along beside him in slightly faded blue coveralls and a cap covered with the reddish ore dust which tinted the ground and the iron roofs all around with a rusty shade. Golovnya was slightly built, but had a heavy lower jaw.

The narrow asphalt road along which they were walking led to the blast furnace shop. Off to one side a squat brick building was visible, squeezed in between railroad tracks. Two iron smokestacks rose darkly above it.

"What is that there?"

"That, comrade commissar, is the oldest structure at this plant. Two small open-hearth furnaces."

"What kind of steel are you currently making there?"

"Alloy steel. For submarines."

"Contract number?"

Golovnya hesitated, then said: "I don't remember, comrade commissar."

"Look in your notebook."

"I don't have it written down here. If you will permit, I will call the planning department and find out."

"I can give you the information myself," Onisimov said sharply.

And he proceeded to recite the contract number from memory. Of course he did not mention that just the day before he had studied the list of orders which Kurakovka had received, as preparation for his tour of the plant. Furthermore, he could probably even without cheating recite by heart at any time all the figures on contracts such as this one for submarines, contracts which were done according to special government instructions, or rather, government orders.

As they went along Onisimov continued his merciless examination: "Quota in tons? Shipping dates?"

The young director answered these questions without hesitation, grinning. His grin seemed self-assured, insolent. Onisimov stifled his annoyance. This fortunate one, a member of a well-known family or, as people had been begun to say, a blast-furnace dynasty, would get his comeuppance that very day. Golovnya's real test lay ahead, in the blast-furnace shop. And then...

"Let's go in," snapped the commissar.

The railroad along which they were walking led through wide-open iron gates to a work area in front of two small steel smelters.

The steel was being poured. There was a smell of gas, a cloud of smoke hung in the air, and it was hard to breathe. The liquid metal flowing out of the ladle cast a ruddy light on the black, soot-covered girders and trusses of the low roof and on the equally sooty masonry of the walls. An old foreman with a cap pulled down over his eyes and wearing blackened tarpaulin coveralls covered his face with his hand and watched as the hot stream poured into the ingot mold. Onisimov strode over to him.

"How are you watching?"

"What do you mean? Like I always do."

"Like always," the commissar caustically repeated after the foreman. "Why are you standing so far away? Where is your blue glass? Why aren't you watching the slag?"

"I am watching it."

"What can you see without your blue glass? Where is it?"

The foreman took a blue glass in a homemade wooden frame out of his pocket. A jagged crack was visible on the pane.

"Is that the way you take care of your instrument?"

Onisimov grabbed the foreman's glass and flung it away. Then he got out his own, in its aluminum frame, and handed it to the foreman. The latter lifted the commissar's glass to his eyes and looked through it.

"Not like that!"

Catching hold of his tarpaulin-covered back, the commissar dragged the foreman right up to the blazing heat of the ingot mold, then proceeded to stand there beside him in his hat and starched collar. The hair on his coat curled slightly from the radiant heat of the metal.

"Give me a glass!" he ordered Golovnya.

And, not retreating a step, lit up by the rosy, almost unbearably close reflection, he watched as the mold filled up, shading his eyes with the dark blue shade which prevented him from being blinded by the glare. Himself a rolled steel specialist, he was also thoroughly familiar with teeming, the final operation of the steel smelting shops. He was establishing order and technological discipline, and unwaveringly demanded that the status of the slag be observed during pouring. Observed and made sure that the slag played at a distance of one or two centimeters from the side of the mold. If it began to stick, the stream of metal should be speeded up. Otherwise the slag sticking to the side would result in low-quality or even completely useless rolled stock. He had even issued, among other technical guidelines, a special order which reiterated the rules of teeming ad nauseum. Yet here at Kurakovka it looked like things were going along as if no such order had ever been issued.

Leaving the foreman standing beside the ingot mold and casting a withering glance at Golovnya, Onisimov went over to the window of the now-empty furnace, which gave off a rosy glow, intending to inspect the fettling. The path to the window was blocked by a pile of glowing waste dolomite, which was already beginning to cool down and was covered with a layer of ash. Onisimov strode onto the pile.

"What are you doing? You'll get burned!" shouted Golovnya.

"I'm not that delicate," caustically replied the commissar.

However, the great heat had already penetrated the soles of his shoes. Onisimov quickly jumped down and spun around to look at the director: was he grinning at him?

A few minutes later the commissar went out through the same gates by which he had entered. An engineer, the shift boss, came running after him.

"Comrade commissar, here's your glass."

"Give it to the foreman as a souvenir. And let it be a remind to the others, too, that they should know their instructions. Know them and follow them."

...Onisimov and Golovnya again walked on toward the blast furnaces along the little asphalt road. The self-confident director already seemed like he was beginning to learn his lesson. Did he have any idea what a dressing down the commissar still had in store for him at the blast furnace shop? The special inspection brigade which Onisimov, according to a long-standing practice of his, had sent ahead had been at the plant for almost two weeks already. Immediately after his arrival it had been reported to him that young Golovnya had undertaken some sort of dubious experiments in the blast-furnace shop. And had done so without informing the commissariat about it or asking permission. That sort of goings-on still occurred frequently in the metal industry. "Every baron has his flight of fancy" — the strict newly-appointed commissar had already used that saying on more than one occasion to describe conditions at the plants. He, who had studied with the English, the founders of the steel industry, and had later spent time in Germany, picking up the

German love of precision and punctuality, was not going to allow each director to run his plant any way he saw fit. He would not permit any violations of proven, reliable techniques; he would establish discipline. Golovnya or no, famous or not, he would flay the hide off of him for breaking the rules, just like he would anyone else.

Beside the path stood another small, low building.

"What's in there?"

"The blast-furnace shop cafeteria."

"Let's take a look. Where is the back entrance?"

Onisimov always did that; he did not trust the way which was pointed out to him, appearing instead unexpectedly through a back entrance, from back courtyards, catching people unawares.

Descending worn stone stairs which led into a half-cellar, they entered a dim room adjoining the kitchen. Several women were peeling potatoes. They all stopped working, looking back and forth from the hook-nosed director to the pale, unfamiliar boss in the hat. Onisimov looked at what they were doing, then inquired: "Why are you cutting such thick peelings?"

One of the women replied: "The potatoes are rotten."

Onisimov approached them, bent over and picked a potato up off the floor, then another.

"No, they're not."

The commissar dropped the potatoes, stood there for a while, and then turned and left. He picked up a cloth as he went and wiped the dirt from his fingers. He remarked caustically to Golovnya: "The peelings are too thick. They're taking them home and feeding them to their pigs."

And without another word -- as if to say "do something about it yourself" -- he strode off toward blast furnace #1, which rose not far away. Pe"tr walked beside him as before.

They climbed up an iron ladder, also red from the rain of ore dust, to the furnace, which emitted a low, even hum. Entering the pyrometric booth, where various-colored lights blinked on from time to time and then went out, Onisimov sat down, slid the smelting log toward himself and opened it up. The shop foreman, who was as young as the director and also dressed in faded blue coveralls, answered the commissar's questions. At times he stammered on account of his anxiousness and grew flushed in blotches. Onisimov had still not said a word about the unplanned experiments being conducted in the shop. Sure of himself, he first wanted to catch his interlocutor in ignorance of his job, beat him down, unnerve him. He asked, without raising his eyes from the logbook: "Why did furnace #2 yield five bad charges yesterday?"

The shop foreman stammered: "Uh.... yesterday?"

"Yes, yes, I said yesterday."

The director, who was standing beside him, suddenly intervened: "There were no bed charges from #2 yesterday. You are mistaken, comrade commissar."

Pe"tr Golovnya spoke with conviction, but was also obviously nervous; his grin had disappeared, and his facial muscles alternately tensed and relaxed. Onisimov, figuratively speaking, clenched his fists to keep from taking Pe"tr to task on the spot and saying: "You obviously are not looking after your plant, just the blast-furnace shop. Furthermore, you are performing all kinds of stunts here." However, Onisimov restrained himself. All in good time. The members of the commissariat's brigade, including engineer Zemtsov, head of the blast furnace group, had been called to the booth and would soon arrive. Let him first report in the presence of the guilty party on the technical liberties which had been taken at Kurakovka, report on the director's personal whims. Then the commissar would take care of the rest. Pe"tr would get what was coming to him.

And he did...

It happened right there in the pyrometric booth of blast furnace #1. Those whom the commissar had sent to Kurakovka in advance appeared at the appointed time -- Minikh, the narrow-faced, bony head of the Main Administration for Construction in Southern Regions, Shivayev, the commissariat's main bookkeeper, and Zemtsov, head of the blast furnace group, a man of large build, what people would call solid, with a crewcut, a person who had accumulated a lot of experience as a plant engineer while at the same time earning the title of professor. Incidentally, it should be noted that Zemtsov had also gained something of a reputation as the author of chess studies and problems. He always took chess literature along with him on trips and pattered alone over a chessboard for long periods of time. Onisimov loved to play him on the train. Not surprisingly, the commissar more often than not beat this skilled player in such contests. Zemtsov explained his defeats by saying that allegedly practical play was not really comparable to the talents of someone who could think up chess problems. Secretly Onisimov was suspicious: was he being tricked? But he took pleasure in winning. And he did not hide this weakness from himself, and forgave himself for it.

Onisimov, the secretary/consultant whom he had brought with him, Pe"tr Golovnya and the shop foreman seated themselves around a ragged, much-used table bearing traces of purple ink once spilled on it. On a tray were arranged cups of tea and a cheap green glass dish with cookies which had been fetched from the shop's snack bar. However, no one touched the food. Onisimov had introduced an ironclad rule in his commissariat: nothing was every to be accepted at plants, including not only, for example, lunch or dinner with the director -- even a free cup of tea was to be refused. He held those who violated this rule up to public scorn at board meetings and beat them with the whip of merciless words. He himself set an example of pedantic restraint while on official business.

From time to time the door of the booth burst open, whistling and humming from outside were audible for a moment, and a black-browed, cleanshaven foreman came in and did his job: inspecting the signal lights and the graph paper which was being inscribed with black lines by automatic registering devices. Then he left. These intrusions did not interrupt the meeting.

Lighting a cigarette, Onisimov addressed Zemtsov: "Now let's listen to you, Nikolay Fedotovitch. What is the situation here on the blast furnace front?"

The chess-playing blast furnace operator stood up. In his deep voice, unhurriedly, pausing and occasionally tugging at his protruding lower lip with two fingers -- an habitual gesture of his -- Zemtsov thoroughly and dynamically depicted the operations of the blast furnace shop in which they found themselves. He himself headed off possible rebuttals. Those present were aware that in industry and transportation there still existed zones of severe disfunction and disorder resulting from the arrests of recent years. Incidentally, that was not supposed to be spoken of. The total volume of metal poured in 1939 was pitiful. Only by mid-1940 -- the year which is described here -- did the steel industry, as well as other industrial sectors, begin to take an upward turn. But an upward turn which was still hesitant and proceeded by fits and starts.

With that same smile, which was at once patronizing and ironic, he described the as yet unheard of method of speeding up blast furnace operations and surprising innovations in design which had been introduced on one of the furnaces by the director of Kurakovka.

"The results were, of course, lamentable," reported Zemtsov. "And how could they be otherwise, when the ABC's of blast furnace operations are violated? Those ABC's require that the rising gas flow be allowed to flow completely unimpeded, but our indefatigable experimenter, swayed by his own theoretical notions, which are unfortunately as yet unknown in world technical literature, decided to narrow the throat of the blast furnace. And naturally nothing good whatsoever came of it."

Of course, at that time Kurakovka was also suffering from the facts that the flow of electric power had been curtailed and at times suddenly ceased altogether, the quality of the smelting materials received by the plant had worsened sharply (and even those, such as they were, were constantly in short supply), the ore storage areas were empty, and the machinery for loading the blast furnaces was on the verge of collapse. Sometimes Onisimov, appointed steel commissar at such a time, literally watched day and night from Moscow over the progress of even a single trainload of ore or limestone for his plants. Kurakovka was also plagued by a chronic shortage of workers and employee turnover, which was especially high in those places where outmoded heavy manual labor still prevailed.

Zemtsov made no effort to conceal these difficulties. "It is only fair to note that under such conditions the blast furnace shop" -- the robust engineer again paused and pulled at his lower lip with two fingers -- "the blast furnace shop has achieved some successes. Its pouring index is increasing steadily. However, can that be considered satisfactory? No, not a single

furnace is meeting its plan goal as yet. Highly serious blunders continue to be made, and -- excuse my frankness, Pe"tr Afanasyevich -- the plant management is falling down on the job."

"After studying the situation on the spot," continued Zemtsov, "we have come to the following conclusion: the difficult situation under which the blast furnace shop continues to labor is the result not only of objective causes, but also of the fact that Pe"tr Afanasyevich, due to his youth" -- with a smile which expressed condescension, Zemtsov smoothed his gray-tinged crewcut with a plump hand, although it immediately stood on end once again -- "due to his youth and fervor, which is particularly understandable to me, as I too was once an inventor and engaged in fruitless, unfounded or -- forgive me the expression as an older comrade -- foolish experiments."

Pe"tr listened in silence and appeared calm. Only the muscles in his jaws moved for a moment. Also, on his reddening forehead, which bore a white, slanting scar, one could see a vertical line form as he concentrated on enduring what he was hearing.

Onisimov asked him sharply: "Who gave you permission for such foolishness?"

"I spoke to the head of the main construction administration about my design. He did not raise any objections to trying it out, studying it."

Onisimov posed the question to Minikh: "Do you confirm that?"

"I recall no such conversation, Aleksandr Leontyevich."

"So who gave you permission?" repeated Onisimov. "And where is that permission documented?"

Pe"tr did not reply.

"Who do you think you are? A local prince or something? You were entrusted with a plant, so you said to yourself: 'why don't we just work on some of my pet projects with state money?' Is this plant your personal fief? Is that what you think?"

"I am convinced," began Pe"tr, "that sooner or later my method will prevail throughout the metallurgical industry. And it will bring..."

"I..me...mine..." interrupted Onisimov. "Let's hear less about 'me'! It's strange how you, who grew up in a working class family, have acquired this anachronistic individualism. Well, think about this, you exceptional individual: do you think that Soviet laws weren't written for you?"

"I don't think that."

"Then why have you been doing as you please?"

"But my method is the result of real-life experience. It is precisely our Soviet metals industry..."

"Our metals industry needs strict order above all else. And you, of all people, are the first one to violate that order! No wonder technical discipline is slack in your shops. We don't need the miracles that you promise; we need daily, unflagging work to establish order. I should relieve you of your position on account of all the stunts you've been pulling here, as an example to the rest, but for now I'm letting you off with a warning. And make sure that you put a stop to all this song-and-dance, this 'me, me, me' stuff. Put a stop to it immediately!"

Thus ending his discussion of Pe"tr Golovnya's unauthorized design changes, the commissar declared a two-hour recess and left the shop.

It was late in the night when they finished listing all the needs and failings of the blast furnace shop. Then they wrote down specific instructions and decisions which were to comprise a special section of the order which the commissar would leave behind him when he left.

Onisimov let the conferees go home at two or three o'clock in the morning. He stuck to that schedule without fail when he was touring plants. The commissariat staff members who accompanied him on his trips, and who with bitter humor called themselves his workhorses, always went to bed worn out, hungry and thoroughly exhausted. Onisimov himself, as if molded of super-strong steel, maintained the sharpness of his tongue and his glance.

Leaving the shop, the commissar, escorted by the director, cut across the tangle of railroad tracks — the steel surfaces, polished by the wheels, shone dully under the plant sky, which was a dark reddish-purple color -- and came out on the little asphalt road, where a car was already waiting. Another car, intended for his traveling companions, had sped away a moment before, and the rapidly departing red dot of its taillights could still be seen not far away. Then it was lost from view. The noises of the nighttime plant seemed muted. Only occasionally did a clang or sharp, whistling sound ring out.

"I beg of you," began Pe"tr, "allow me to test out my method on just one furnace."

"Twenty-five again. Come along, walk a bit farther with me," said Onisimov.

They strode off along the edge of the narrow road. The car crept along behind the commissar without overtaking him. Onisimov looked around with annoyance. Even in Moscow he did not permit an automobile to follow him, matching his pace; he considered that a haughty affectation. Approaching the driver, he ordered him to drive to the main gates and wait for him there.

Then he returned to Pe"tr.

For a while they walked along in silence.

"I happened to think about flakes just now," said Onisimov.

His tone was soft and confidential. It was as if he had thrown off his perpetual armor of official bearing.

"About flakes?"

Both were very well acquainted with this specialized metallurgical term, which referred to a defect in poured steel which was not discernible with any instruments of that time. Science could only explain that flakes were caused by tiny, almost microscopic bubbles of hydrogen which became trapped in the casting. During the rolling process, the rollers caused these bubbles to become elongated and turn into thin, hairline cracks, like a kind of worm hole which gave no sign of its presence. Steel infected with flakes would be stamped "suitable for use." And only much later, seemingly sturdy and already installed, it would break and crumble. Train derailments had been caused by unexpected failures of rails which had seemed flawless in every way. There had been cases where a ship's propeller would crack from one moment to the next. Sometimes seemingly sturdy trusses, gears and axles would collapse. Only along the fracture line could the already enlarged flakes be seen: silver-white flakes surrounded by dark fatigue spots.

Flakes had long been Onisimov's favorite subject. Perhaps it would be appropriate to note at this point that as a young man he, an irreproachable student and the party organizer of his institute, was called "a man without flakes" by his comrades. And he took pride in that nickname.

Nowadays the metallurgists under Onisimov knew that their terrible commissar could, to put it bluntly, be "bought off" by bringing the conversation around to the subject of flakes. On such occasions Aleksandr Leontyevich became inspired, going into the various fine points of this mysterious problem and citing amazing incidents. And, as his subordinates had noticed, he became more agreeable as he talked. Incidentally, saying he "became more agreeable" does not quite describe what happened. It was simply that for a time one did not have to fear his acrimoniousness and hot temper.

And now, walking beside Pe"tr, pacing along the empty nighttime path, he eagerly discoursed on flakes. It seemed as if his powerful head, covered with a felt hat and always ensconced between his shoulders, rose somewhat. It was at moments like these that Onisimov rested, riding his favorite horse.

Pe"tr, as the reader is aware, was not overly endowed with tact. He listened and listened, and then spoke himself: "Comrade commissar, I do not see any connection whatsoever between my method and flakes."

"But I do."

"And what is that connection?"

Grinning -- oh, those grins of his! -- Pe"tr illustrated in a few clear sentences that his method, no matter how one looked at it, could in no way pose a threat to the quality of the metal produced. Also, in general new ways

of radically purifying steel of all types of gas inclusions had already been discovered. The idea of pouring steel in a vacuum had already been proposed long before. That needed to be tested and studied under practical conditions. Onisimov did not argue, he merely let the subject drop: "No, it's better if we don't philosophize about flakes." Now his tone was harsh, as usual. "Furthermore, you also do not realize that it is possible to speak of flakes as an independent topic. Your wonderful inventions are your personal flake. It would be best if you got rid of it before it's too late."

"But I am trying to understand you," Pe"tr said quietly.

"Yes, and it's high time you did."

"Of course as regards my method I evidently am not going to be able to prove a thing to you. Let us leave for a moment the question of whether it is successful or unsuccessful. But if the higher-ups told you to render me assistance..."

"Well..."

"Or even if they simply gave me the go-ahead, I would receive from you everything that I require for my invention, regardless of whether it were good or bad."

"So what are you getting at?"

Onisimov's reply sounded threatening. Pe"tr answered coolly: "Industry, Aleksandr Lenontyevich, cannot function like that. I think that it is impossible to live like that at all..."

At that point Onisimov cut him off...

...Why did he bring that up anyway? They had been thinking about something else entirely.

But then it breaks in again, and the same current flows through your mind.

...Perhaps it was precisely that nighttime walk from the blast furnace shops to the main gates, at first so peaceful and then later revealing Golovnya's impudent thoughts, which brought Onisimov to a firm decision: that sort can be shown no mercy, such people must be fired.

...Onisimov spent another two or three days at the plant, as before astounding everyone with his investigative grasp, punctuality and tirelessness: he was on the job a full 16 hours a day.

On the eve of his departure he spoke at an assembly of the plant aktiv. Shop and department foremen, some other distinguished engineers, the best sub-foremen, outstanding workers, the heads of party and trade union organizations, as well as the the entire apparatus which accompanied the commissar, numbering about 30 experts of various types, were all squeezed in tightly on the benches of the sheet metal rolling shop's relative large, 400-square-meter "red corner".

Limiting himself to an extremely condensed political speech, Onisimov then proceeded to analyze the plant's operations in a businesslike, specific fashion. Conciliatory phrases, subdued criticism or so-called shock absorbers were lacking in his speech. He pointed out the flaws in administration, disciplined and lashed out at those who were guilty of disorder and negligence toward technical and elementary labor discipline, and set clear and manageable tasks. He also did not spare the director:

"Unfortunately, Comrade Golovnya has, instead of doing his job and seeing to the organization of production, been busy with his own inventions. He obviously thinks that this plant was given over to his complete control: whatever he wishes, he does. However, he is mistaken. The director, like any one of us, merely performs his duty and serves the state. And no one in the Land of the Soviets is permitted to use an official position to further his own notions and foolishness. The same rules which apply to everyone apply to the director as well: submit your idea to the proper authorities. And wait for permission!"

The hook-nosed director, a reddish tint in his naturally curly hair, was sitting behind the presidium table at the podium. He sullenly stood up and said:

"Which you have already forbidden me to do."

"For your information, comrade Golovnya, I am not some petty tyrant who can forbid or allow at my own discretion. The device which you constructed here at your own initiative has been thoroughly studied by experts. They have given their opinion: it is nothing but a foolish whim. I have also looked at it. And I have been forced to order you, comrade Golovnya, to put a halt to these stunts."

Pe"tr once again leaped up from his seat: "Someday everyone will know that it was you who forbade it!"

Onisimov turned around sharply. The idea! This impudent, obstinate person daring, before 400 metal workers, to snap back and dare to instruct a commissar. Well, he would snap back.

"Yes, I forbade it! And I am sending my inspectors here to see that you carry out the order. And if you do not give up these ideas of yours, I will give you a lesson that you will never forget. This plant is not your fief, and you are not its master! Don't make yourself out to be a shining personage, a privileged individual. There are no privileged people in this country! And I don't care if you do belong to a renowned family. You won't get any break on account of that."

"Nor will I need it."

"Please don't argue with me. What kind of example are you setting?"

Pausing for breath, Onisimov regained his cool. His massive head bent over his papers for a moment. Then his keen, greenish eyes returned to those assembled. The commissar felt it necessary to say a few more words concerning the director:

"Comrade's Golovnya's behavior today again convinces me that he is incapable of managing this plant and should be relieved of his position."

His words were calm and well-measured.

With that decision in mind -- to relieve the insolent director of his position -- Onisimov left Kurakovka the next day.

However, Onisimov alone was not empowered to replace the director of a large plant. The administrators of the largest enterprises had to be approved by the party's Central Committee and were became part of, in the language of that time, a certain special nomenklatura. Without the Central Committee's sanction it was impossible to dismiss or replace the younger Golovnya.

Onisimov little by little thought out the case which he would make before his superiors. In his mind he composed a memorandum on the subject. That sort of paper, addressed to the Central Committee, he always composed personally. However, it had not fallen together yet. He was not satisfied with the text which he had in mind. However, he did have a rough draft which was more or less suitable. But only more or less... An unaccountable, almost instinctive doubt remained. He had faith in that vague feeling of his. Oh, well, he would get it done, all he had to do was wait awhile.

Incidentally, the approaching holidays were the anniversary of the October Revolution. In any event the matter could only be looked into after the holidays.

On the evening of 6 November Onisimov, leaving his office at an unusually early hour, drove home to change clothes and went with his wife to the Bolshoi Theater for the traditional assembly in commemoration of the birthday of Soviet power.

Entering through a side entrance reserved for members of the government only, Aleksandr Leontyevich, in a new suit and spotless, shining shoes, and Yelena Antonovna, in a grey, severely cut dress which seemed to emphasize her stateliness and erectness, completely unadorned except for the collar of her cream-colored silk blouse, which showed above her jacket, went up the stairs to a box on the side, against the wall. In a sort of antechamber -- called in theater dialect an avant-logé -- separated from the seats by a heavy dark-green curtain, stood Ivan Tevadosovich Tevosyan and his wife Olga Aleksandrovna, who had obviously also just arrived.

Dark-complexioned, short, with hair so black it shined, the commissar of the metal industry greeted the new arrivals cordially. His little mustache, which looked as if it had been drawn on with India ink, contrasted most strikingly with his white-toothed smile.

Olga Aleksandrovna was also smiling. A light pink shawl was wrapped around her plump neck. Her light brown hair was not pulled back ascetically flat, but it was also not piled high. She was straightening her hair in front of a mirror which was hanging nearby, unembarrassed to be doing so.

Involuntarily Onisimov compared Olga Aleksandrovna, who had also chosen the profession of party functionary in her youth, with his own wife. Both were businesslike women, but the dryness which characterized Yelena Antonovna had not left a trace even on the external lines of Tevosyan's companion in life. Looking at her, already the mother of two children, Onisimov had already on more than one occasion regretted that he did not have a child of his own (at that time Andreyka had not even been thought of; he was fated to be born two years later, during the war).

A minute or two later the women went to their seats behind the curtain, which hung in pleats. The hum of the huge multitiered concert hall reached the avant-loges as a muted sound. The two commissars sat down for a moment on a sofa. There smoking was allowed, as evidenced by an ashtray on the low table by the sofa and the almost unnoticeable grate of a ventilation fan mounted in the wall. Inveterate smokers, neither could pass up an opportunity to take a few quick puffs.

Onisimov congratulated Ivan Tevadrosovich. For the first time in many, many months Tevosyan's commissariat had finally during the past October met its plan goal for pig iron production. Only a year before the operations of his plants had been in such disarray that the metal industry was not even reaching 80 percent of its quota. Hence earnings had also declined, the metal workers had become demoralized, and many people had thrown up their hands, the situation seemingly hopeless. It was none other than Tevosyan who then dared to take a bold step unprecedented in the history of Soviet industry: he announced that henceforth bonuses would be paid even for 80 percent fulfillment of plan, and that each percentage point thereafter would result in progressive bonus increases. This measure, which was approved by the Soviet of People's Commissars, had also been extended to enterprises under the jurisdiction of the people's commissariat for steel rolling and founding. It was precisely that decision — on this point Aleksandr Leontyevich bowed to Tevosyan's organizational talent without the slightest jealousy: that would have been beneath him — that decision which affected the whole army of metal workers and ended their feelings of indifference and unhappiness and had an effect which was like magic.

"It's a bit too early to congratulate me," said Tevosyan. "When I meet my plan goals for a whole cycle, that will be a different matter. Obviously you and I will reach that goal neck and neck. And it looks like you are still ahead by a nose."

Onisimov did not dispute that prediction. Indeed, the enterprises under his jurisdiction, including old Kurakovka, were confidently gathering steam and were coming quite close to 100-percent fulfillment of plan goals both in terms of gross production and assortment. There was no longer any doubt that the

steel production industry would enter the new year of '41 -- who could know how terrible that year was to become?! -- stronger than ever before.

"Generally speaking," continued Tevosyan, "if we follow the current custom of conjuring up Mayakovsky, we could consider ourselves covered with glory. But let's put an end to the congratulating. Better that you tell me your impressions of your trip."

Aleksandr Leontyevich eagerly began to tell him. True to himself and to the school of hard workers to whom history had given the mission of taking in hand and urging on those who are sparing with their praise and who also nurture repulsion of self-praise -- we should note that Tevosyan was one of those -- Aleksandr Leontyevich began talking about the things which outraged him during the trip. Violations of rules, technical disarray. It was necessary to tighten the screws over and over again. Some question of Tevosyan's or, perhaps, merely a turn of phrase brought Onisimov around to the subject of flakes. The distant consequences of technical slovenliness or willful actions would someday make themselves felt. And there would hardly be any way to avoid a very unpleasant task: the investigation of disasters. As he said that, Aleksandr Leontyevich thought of young Golovnya.

"I don't like to replace directors," he said, "but I have decided to get rid of Pe"tr Golovnya."

He briefly related to Tevosyan the faults of the director of Kurakovka: self-assured, with an itch to invent things, disobedient and publicly insolent.

Tevosyan's dark hazel, almost black, eyes did not express approval.

"You know they may say to you: 'What you are proposing is strange. He's a young director. He's not doing too badly. He should be helped. Aren't you being hasty?'"

The vague doubts which had worried Onisimov for a moment became clear, seemed to crystallize. Yes, in all likelihood they would say something along that line to him. However, he did not yield: "Of course there is no reason to act hastily. But, on the other hand, if I am sure, why should I wait?"

"But are you sure?"

At that instant the dark-green curtain was drawn back. Tevosyan's wife looked out. She had already taken off her pink shawl.

"What are you doing?" A slight reproach could be heard in her calm, melodious voice. "Do you think they're going to wait for you?"

Through the half-opened drape all that reached their ears was the expectant hush which had already fallen on the audience. Both commissars hurried into their box.

The long table covered with crimson velvet which had been set up on stage was still empty. Behind it stood rows of as yet unoccupied chairs. Spotlights

brilliantly lit a backdrop consisting of a sort of medallion: the profile of Stalin's face, and Lenin's profile, which seemed to serve as a background. It took a subtle glance to notice how in that double portrait Lenin became slightly smaller with each passing year, and how Stalin's image grew larger.

The high-power lights set up for the filming of a newsreel were casting rays of a blinding bluish light, which fell upon the audience. In addition, one or two which had not been turned on yet were aimed at the wings, which were hidden from the parterre and balconies but were clearly visible from the last box, which Tevosyan and Onisimov had entered and where they remained standing. Already standing in one wing were those who had been invited to occupy a seat on stage; they were grouped together closely, leaving open a clear passage leading to the table. Almost all of them were widely known individuals. There stood some polar explorers, beside them a broad, balding aircraft motor designer, farther along an equally renowned black-browed academician. One could distinguish Pyzhov's gracefully inclined head. Also visible was the smooth grey coiffure of an old Bolshevik; disgrace had been spared her.

Without taking his eyes off the wings, Tevosyan gently nudged Onisimov with his elbow: "Hey, look over there, they've dragged out old Golovnya, too."

Onisimov replied, unperturbed: "So what? That means that metallurgists have the place of honor again."

The red-mustached master blast furnace operator dropped out of sight behind the backs of those standing in front of him. Evidently he was standing on tiptoe from time to time, thrusting his large hooked nose forward. Contented and flushed, the elder Golovnya gazed constantly in the direction from whence the passage through the crowd originated.

A moment more, and then Stalin appeared in the passageway, seemingly suddenly, although his arrival had been expected. He did not walk swiftly, but also not slowly, a sort of businesslike pace. His clothing, of a military cut, had not changed for many years: military-colored pants stuffed in his boots, drooping slightly over the boot tops and an similar jacket without any insignia whatsoever. Actually, it was no longer a jacket, but rather an excellently tailored tunic which fitted comfortably around his torso. Even such changes of dress, not immediately noticeable, bore witness that the soldier's look had been thrown off, and a somewhat different image was emerging.

The Boss walked along the applauding ranks without glancing to either side, as if he saw nothing. The immobility of his head was majestic. His shortness was not noticeable. Behind Stalin, keeping their distance, filed his closest associates. He was still hidden from the hall by the curtain, but the applause which had begun on stage was immediately taken up by the audience.

Suddenly Stalin stopped. With a lively motion -- yes, yes, at one time, within Onisimov's memory, he had moved in such a youthful way -- with a lively motion he reached out his hand to someone in the crowd lining the passageway. To whom? To the red-headed blast furnace operator. For a moment those standing in front of Golovnya moved aside. Now it was not just his face which was flushed: even the nape of his wrinkled neck was red. His fashionable tie

was askew, but the old blast furnace operator did not notice. He was shaking Stalin's hand with both of his own. Stalin said something, and his black mustache, which still appeared thick, moved.

The floodlights aimed in that direction came on. But the movie camera was not able to capture this moment on film. Once again assuming a monumental air, again carrying his head motionless, Stalin was already moving on. He seemed to wave the lights away from him with his hand. Obedient to this silent command, the spotlights immediately changed their direction slightly.

Behind Stalin came Molotov, carrying a document case under his arm. He also stopped for a moment by the elder Golovnya and shook his hand. Then each person in the file of people which moved behind Stalin also paused near the red-haired foreman and shook his hand. It looked as if they were all carrying out an order in identical fashion, without giving it any thought. At first the foreman smiled at everyone, then his red face, which gave surprisingly direct expression to what was going on inside him, began to register surprise, until finally, when people he did not even know began greeting him and shaking his hand, he looked completely dumbfounded.

But now he was standing behind the table and slowly applauding, as if responding to the thunderous waves of applause.

Pouring out his feelings, his devotion to Stalin and his faith in his genius, Onisimov also clapped his hands furiously. He felt like whispering to Tevosyan: "Well... a mistaken analysis."

However, his automatic brakes were at work. He kept the jest to himself. He did not even say: "Well..."

...Of course he cancelled his plans to replace the younger Golovnya. But, naturally, he saved face. Onisimov was aided in this by a certain issue of PRAVDA which appeared shortly after the October Revolution anniversary celebrations.

Placing the newspaper on his desk, he called the director of Kurakovka from his office and, after asking how things were going, said: "Read today's PRAVDA carefully."

"I always read it carefully. What's in it today?"

"You'll find it yourself, if you look. But if you wish, I could satisfy your curiosity right now. A resolution by the Soviet of People's Commissars concerning willful violations of technical rules in the machine-building industry has been published."

"In machine building?"

"Don't worry. There's no place to hide in our industry, either. Shall I quote?"

"Please do. I'm listening."

"Listen: 'The introduction of changes in the technical process... is permitted... only with the permission of the people's commissar.' Is that clear?"

"Tell me something that I don't know."

"But there is something new here. Listen to this: 'Noncompliance with this resolution will be considered a felony, and the directors, chief engineers and main technicians of plants which permit such violations will be subject to prosecution.' Do you understand that? I think you can guess who signed it."

"I'll read the rest of it myself."

"Don't just read it: put it under the glass on your desk top, so that you can look at it from time to time and refresh your memory. And keep working. But forget about your heresies."

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CULTURE

KARPOV DISCUSSES TASKS, APPOINTMENTS IN WRITERS UNION

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[Interview with Vladimir Vasilyevich Karpov conducted by OGONEK special correspondent Zigmund Khiren: "A Writer's Concerns: Vladimir Karpov, First Secretary of the USSR Writers Union"]

[Text] Readers do not only read books, they also want to know how writers work, how literary heroes who enter our real lives through the pages of novels, stories and poems come into being. We disagree with some, others become our friends and fellow thinkers to whom we turn in difficult moments for counsel and sympathy. Readers are happy about every one of an author's successes and also take his failures and errors to heart. All of this was felt especially acutely during the 8th Writers Congress. This congress was frank, critical and self-critical, without any reservations or hiding of criticism.

"Our congress began its work on 24 June. Perhaps that is why, listening to my comrades' speeches and looking at their faces, I recalled the terrible and tragic day when the war began. I looked out over the audience, and among those present were a few representatives of the millions who fought at the front. My memories of wartime experiences blended into memories of the first postwar years, when some of the current delegates were students entering the Literary Institute. And now they are talking passionately about what Soviet literature should be in order to have a worthy role in solving the most pressing problems of its Fatherland and of all mankind."

Vladimir Vasilyevich Karpov began our interview with this short statement.

[Question] Vladimir Vasilyevich, writers have always been regarded as farsighted individuals. That is true. Many of them have seen the future and predicted it. In your opinion, in what way should this writers' farsightedness be manifested these days, in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and restructuring in all realms of our country and people's lives and activities?

[Answer] I would like to begin my answer to this question by citing a speech made at the congress by Valentin Rasputin, who represents a later generation than our own. He has carried on a rather lively dispute with scientists, even

with Aleksandrov, the president of the USSR Academy of Sciences. "No matter how much we talk about the issue of reversing the flow of rivers, no matter how much we write, no matter how much we move hearts and write poems, novels and stories, giving our strength and our time to the defense of our native land -- the result is the same: they listen to us and then do whatever they want..." He read from official papers which asserted the need to redirect the flow of some northern rivers into the southern regions of our country... "As if there did not even exist well-founded, reasonable conclusions by the public, writers and many, many scientists supporting just the opposite: that this idea is unfounded and criminal..." Now we read in PRAVDA from 16 August 1986: "The Politburo, in connection with the need for additional study of the ecological and economic aspects of this issue, such study being favored by broad segments of the public, deems it appropriate that such work be halted..." A mere six weeks separated these two incidents, and what incidents they were! They reflect in an indisputably convincing fashion the spirit of our times, the sensitivity of our party and the role played by writers in our common system and common struggle.

[Question] The example of Rasputin no doubt has a bearing on the writers profession. Can't you tell us in this connection in more detail about the atmosphere at the congress, about the new ideas and issues brought up by the delegates?

[Answer] The writers said everything they wanted to and which they felt it was necessary to say about shortcomings in our lives and work. They directed sharp criticism toward administration where it hinders creativity, they spoke directly and without beating around the bush about bureaucratism, servility and all sorts of injustices which occur in the publishing business. And now that everything has been brought out in the open and been properly evaluated, it seems to me that the time has come to ask ourselves and find an answer to the question: what next? Do we drag up old cases of poor work, disorder and bureaucratic recidivists. Yes, that should be brought to completion. Nevertheless the main thing today lies elsewhere. This is not a simple issue, and we are resolving it with our collective reason, as evidenced by our congress.

The onward progress of life gives us cause to think about the positive hero, about his new, energetic actions on the path toward implementation of the great changes in the lives of our country and its people which will result from the decisions made by the 27th CPSU Congress. But we also cannot neglect the so-called negative factors. "World literature, Russian literature in particular, has created a gallery of heroes representing evil and vice," as Granin has said. "The most pressing issues of morality were tested and posed by them... Against the backdrop of such heroes our antiheroes look weak, innocuous and foolish." This is true, only not completely true. We should recall the antiheroes created at the end of the 1920's by two young unknowns who were at that time working for the newspaper GUDOK: Ilf and Petrov, who became world-renowned writers thanks to their novel "The 12 Chairs." One cannot help but agree with Granin that the struggle which is going on today has strengthened both emotions and characters. In this one-on-one struggle evil has been presented as more powerful, dangerous and omnipresent than we

had thought. It will not seem nearly so menacing if we circumscribe its power. It has connections, money and the ability to adapt.

Why should we restructure... The standards of morality and immorality have changed. The time for great hopes and great actions has come, because words and deeds, heretofore separated, have been joined together into a single whole. However, despite all that we should note that all those years also yielded things which were truly significant. The fate of some of them was unfairly difficult. Granin has said that he knows of several novels of talent written at the urgent insistence of conscience and pain. Who should be interested in their many years of suffering, help them, discuss them, analyze them? Who? In my opinion, the Writers Union. Who else should do it?...

[Question] Vladimir Vasilyevich, writers such as Georgiy Markov, Chingiz Aytmatov, Vasil Bykov, Yuriy Bondarev, Grigoriy Balkanov, Oles Gonchar and Sergey Salygin, who are so popular with the public, have become members of the secretariat buro. Their books are well-loved and eagerly awaited. Will not long hours organizational work in the buro have a negative effect on their creative work, will it not keep them from their primary task?

[Answer] Your concern is justified. But the heart of the matter is that the job entrusted to them is of tremendous significance in terms of decisive restructuring of our operations and our organization, and in that area true masters of their craft can exert a greater influence. On the first day of the congress our Writers Union had 9,523 members. Yet how many "real" books, as you say, appeared during the five years between congresses? One hundred? Three hundred? And what were the rest writing? So we are striving to make the members of the Writers Union more active, and in doing so we would be making a mistake if we did not utilize the influence of our more talented colleagues. Representatives of several different republics will be joining the buro, and they do not intend to move to Moscow. The buro will meet to discuss problems pertaining to the functioning of the Writers Union. All its members will continue to work actively. Since the congress there have already been published literary and publicistic works by Chingiz Aytmatov and Sergey Zalygin which immediately attracted attention everywhere. Of course, the major portion of these works was written prior to the congress, but the finishing touches and reading of drafts took place after the congress and, as we can see, their work as members of the buro did not keep them from completing those works. Experience has shown that those writers elected or assigned to full-time positions continue to work actively in the literary field: Ananyev, Ivanov, Vergelis, Chakovskiy, Isayev and many others of their colleagues in republic- and oblast-level organizations.

[Question] Vladimir Vasilyevich, could you tell us in more detail about what is being done to begin realization of wishes expressed by congress delegates?

[Answer] The secretariat is focusing its attention on strengthening those tendencies which above all stimulate the creative work and efforts of writers and the Union as a whole.

When Maxim Gorky met with writers he had a favorite saying which has become legendary: look at each other's manuscripts more often. He himself set an

example of such concern for future books. The thick volumes of LITERATURNNOYE NASLEDSTVO have yielded thousands of letters addressed to Gorky by Soviet writers, many of whose writers subsequently became classics of Soviet literature. Gorky read as many as 40 manuscripts per month, and wrote more than 20,000 letters. He joked about himself: "I am gradually becoming a mailman."

[Question] And which of the currently active writers are following Gorky's example?

[Answer] I do not know which of our writers is manifesting a Gorky-like interest in the fate of other people's manuscripts. It is true that very many people, due to the nature of their work, read a tremendous number of manuscripts: chief editors and the staff of book and magazine publishing houses do such work on a daily basis. Sometimes it happens that after the death of a writer a literary heritage commission discovers thick packets of his correspondence with young writers. This is very specific work, done at the command of one's heart, most often requiring mutual interest both on the part of the one who is supporting and tutoring and the one who is seeking and who needs that kind of support. I recall my years as a student at the Literary Institute. The leader of our creative seminar, Konstantin Georgiyevich Paustovskiy, taught all of us, yet he had a certain cordial closeness with and paid more careful attention to those in whom he could already see serious budding writers.

[Question] At the Writers Congress you, Vladimir Vasilyevich, mentioned NOVIY MIR editors Tvardovskiy, Simonov and Narovchatov, all of whom passed away shortly after the age of 60, and you said that their editorial duties were not the least of the causes for their early demise. The writer Kron also had a sad fate; you reported that for several years the editors of NOVIY MIR withheld his story "Kapitan dalnego plavaniya" [The Captain of Distant Voyages] from publication. In the end it was published. But what that cost both you and the author! Don't you think that all of that could have been avoided if there existed within the Writers Union a genuinely creative atmosphere and true concern for the fate of colleagues who have placed their lives on the altar of literature? Is there any guarantee that a similar incident will be impossible after this congress?

[Answer] I don't want to be a hypocrite: what you are asking about was not always the fault of the editors or the administration of the Writers Union. You yourself have characterized that which I and the USSR Writers Union have to do as akin to a struggle. Currently the secretariat is directing its efforts toward making sure that such a thing will not be repeated. Indifference toward the labor of one's colleagues, excuses, replies written for form's sake and fear of arguing with the bureaucrats who bar a good book's path to the readers: we would like to ensure that these become nothing more than unpleasant memories.

The party is doing a tremendous amount of work to orient society toward new tasks and to unleash the people's creative potential on finding ways to resolve those tasks. Here the main thing is the human factor. The arts, especially literature, their most effective and widespread form, are a

powerful means of educating people in a political, ideological and ethical sense. That is the starting point from which the leadership of our writers organization proceeds when it attempts to cope with the tasks which you and I are discussing. It is obvious that staleness, formalism and excessive bureaucracy are intolerable. This was spoken of at the congress, and we are guided by this principle as we work to carry out the decisions made by the congress. However, during the first few months of my work I have unfortunately encountered on more than one occasion authors who are attempting to take advantage of the current atmosphere of renewal, which is convenient for them, to get their poor-quality works into print. Most often this occurs with people who attempt to make up for a lack of talent and diligence by energetically elbowing their way to the head of the line. Sometimes when I talk with, or rather defend myself against, this sort of impudent authors, I think to myself with astonishment: what could such individuals teach readers, what sort of moral qualities? We have very difficult work ahead of us with respect to such writers, regardless of their age or the number of book which they have had published (with the aid of their elbows).

A great deal has been said about the need for active intervention by the secretariat in finding solutions to creative problems and in getting a selected aktiv from writers organizations involved in doing so. Of primary importance is the task of expanding the democratic, consultative foundations of our Union's operations. It stands to reason that the main criterion for judging the work of the Writers Union as a whole and its leadership in particular will be the appearance of new works of talent. By those works, and by them alone, will our restructuring be judged by the people.

[Question] I would like to find out in more detail, Vladimir Vasilyevich, what each of the secretaries will be dealing with, what principle governs the distribution of work among them, and whether they have any real chance of having an influence on the literary process. In a word, without beating around the bush, won't full-time secretaries turn into "do-nothings," receiving visitors left and right yet not concerning themselves with anything else? Have you not yourself spoken of renewal of the style of leadership as well?

[Answer] The secretaries -- by that I mean those who are known as working or full-time secretaries -- will work within their own creative fields. We have attempted to ensure that each literary genre is headed up by a professional who is an authority in that field. I won't bother to go into the secretaries' titles or degrees as laureates, their prizes, honorary titles or awards here; in any event, each name speaks for itself. I will just say one thing: they are highly skilled and respected writers, and that is the primary reason that they were elected by the congress delegates to head up our Union. Poetry will be handled by Yegor Isayev, prose by Pe"tr Proskurin, a highly important field (literature by the peoples of the USSR, which is published in 78 languages) by Yuriy Surovtsev, criticism by Aleksandr Mikhaylov, and drama by Afanasiy Salynskiy. Publishing matters have been assigned to Yuriy Gribov, who has quite a bit of experience in that area already; he was head of the weekly LITERNATURNAYA ROSSIYA, and later of NEDELYA. The literary fund is to be headed by Nikolay Gorbachev. There was particular discussion of who should be assigned to work with young people. That is our number one problem. It is

not without reason that we are reproached for the fact that the Writers Union has no members younger than 30. Of course a writer's skill is not to be judged by his age, but rather by his books. I am personally of the opinion that one cannot be considered a real writer, especially a writer of prose, drama or criticism, without a substantial biography. It seems to me that one of the essential preconditions for becoming a writer is a complex life, filled with events, experiences and struggle. There is a popular saying in that regard: you have to have something behind your soul! Otherwise how can you reach people? Yes, at the Literary Institute a writer can pick up some literary techniques, some work skills, but our creative mentors always told us quite frankly that they were not teaching people to be writers. They were only giving people the knowledge, theory and creative canons and helping them develop and activate their existing talent. Work to discover talented young people and to support them should be done not only at the Literary Institute, but also "out in the real world."

When discussing a possible candidate for work with young people, we took into consideration his writing abilities, his organizational experience and, finally, his age. The writer selected was Konstantin Vasilyevich Skvortsov, head of our Chelyabinsk Oblast literary organization. He is a member of the Chelyabinsk Party Obkom, was a delegate to the 27th CPSU Congress, has a fair knowledge of young workers in the Urals, and is himself still close to them.

[Question] What about our international literary contacts? Will this area be administered by one of the full-time secretaries, or limited to the foreign commission?

[Answer] Our Writers Union maintains contacts with literary figures in more than 100 countries. They come to visit us, and our comrades call on them. We conduct symposiums, debates and discussions on various questions pertaining to literature. One of the full-time secretaries, Genrikh Borovik, has been assigned the job which you asked about. He is an international publicist who has lived in the United States for 15 years and has also visited many countries and knows several foreign languages; he is known to television viewers for his reviews, and he is also known for his books of essays and theatrical productions on international topics. As you can see, in this area as well we were guided by criteria of competence and professionalism. Of course, Genrikh Borovik and the members of the foreign commission will not be the only ones taking part in this great and responsible work; all the secretaries and many writers from all the union republics will also be involved. In the wake of M.S. Gorbachev's statement on 18 August concerning our government's new initiatives in the struggle for peace and disarmament, we are fully aware what a substantial contribution writers can make to the realization of our peace-loving policies both through their publicistic efforts in newspapers and magazines and on radio and television, through their many personal contacts while traveling abroad and through their meetings with colleagues from other countries.

[Question] At the congress, was the idea expressed that perhaps successors for secretaries should be determined in advance, so that it would be known who would replace whom and when, so that during the period between

congresses the duties of secretaries would be passed from "hand to hand" by, say, three or four people?

[Answer] At this time we have decided to conduct an experiment of this sort in one area of our work. We are conducting a unique experiment in the field of drama. After occupying his position for 18 months or two years, secretary Salynskiy will hand the reins of administration over to Rozov, and after a certain period of time the latter will pass them on to Shatrov. The whole time they will be working together, and at any moment will be prepared to assist or replace one another. If this experiment proves successful, we will extend it to other fields.

[Question] It is probably no secret to you, Vladimir Vasilyevich, that sometimes one hears people who are not connected with literature say that our state shows favoritism toward writers, creates special conditions for them, and spends large sums of money on them. How would you respond to such talk?

[Answer] I would start by saying that the USSR Writers Union is fully self-supporting. It does not receive a single ruble from the state. On the contrary, it contributes a great deal of income to the State Budget. I will mention just two of our sources of income (two of many): LITERNATURNAYA GAZETA, for example, yields over 15 million rubles profit, the "Sovetskiy Pisatel" Publishing House likewise over 15 million rubles. A portion of this money is spent to support the Literary Institute, build housing and creative facilities and maintain those which already exist, of which there are 20, plus 11 boarding schools. We have our own clinics and hospitals. In addition, writers are workers just like everyone else: we pay sick pay and disability payments. But, generally speaking, a writer's average salary is very small. Talk about big royalties and unlimited bank accounts are merely persistent gossip. There exists a law governing authorship which states who should be paid, how much and for what. Say someone has been published and republished many times. When a book has great artistic value and is successful and in demand among readers, it is logical that it be reprinted, but there have been cases in which some authors wanted to have their works reprinted more often than the readers wished. But, I repeat, these are isolated incidents, and we cannot make judgments about the salaries of many thousands of other writers on that basis.

From all that I have said you may conclude that the Writers Union cannot get along without organizational work. As you see, the whole profession also cannot do without it, in moderation, naturally.

[Question] Let me take this opportunity, Vladimir Vasilyevich, to ask you how your book about Marshal Zhukov is coming along.

[Answer] I have gathered a tremendous amount of material, and have been able to meet personally with many of those who came in contact with the marshal during the war. However, the work I have to do in the Soviet Writers Union still will not permit me to devote all my time to my book. Often I look with sadness at the manuscript and materials, which look so petrified on my desk after I had been working actively on them so recently. It stands to reason that I and the other writers who have been elected to leadership positions

will have to make certain sacrifices but, on the other hand, we must prove ourselves worthy of the trust and respect shown us by our comrades of the pen.

We are living in an era of openness, and I have attempted to be as frank as possible with you, that is to say, with the readers of OGONEK. Any reader can check up on all aspects of the USSR Writers Union's activities quite simply, even without the aid of a computer, and this is how: look to see whether our readers receive more good, diverse and genuine books in the near future.

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CULTURE

KARPOV GIVES BIOGRAPHY ON GUMILEV IN WEEKLY OGONEK

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/Article by Vladimir Karpov: "The Poet Nikolay Gumilev"7

[Excerpts] The first quarter of the 20th century was filled with great historical events and, as always, these years of change and crisis gave birth to many talented chroniclers -- poets, prose writers, and philosophers. Each of them, in keeping with his convictions, sympathies and antipathies and depending upon the extent of his talent, strived not only to describe but also to interpret the events which took place as well as peoples' thoughts and expectations.

In the years which we are discussing, Lev Tolstoy (during the first ten of these years), Gorkiy, Bunin, Kuprin, Bryusov, Blok, Mayakovskiy, Yesenin, Mandelshtam, Andrey Bely, Merezhkovskiy, and many others were leading active literary lives. All these writers, so very different in their political and creative views, took part in the social struggle, creating artistic works which reflected the fierce encounters of the opposing forces. As it turned out, to be an eye-witness observer did not always mean to be an infallible judge.

It was namely this literary milieu that Nikolay Gumilev entered at the beginning of the century. He was richly gifted by nature, possessing a powerful and original talent, but, unfortunately, did not succeed in fully realizing this talent. He published several collections of poems, which we will talk about below; they testified to the poet's formative processes and served as singular paths of approach to the soaring flight promised by his potentials.

The life and work of Gumilev is discussed in the memoirs of many writers, in both editions of the "Literary Encyclopedia, and in the text books on literature used by higher educational institutions. The literary critics V. Zhirmunskiy, V. Orlov, Vs. Rozhdestvenskiy and many others have analyzed the poet's creative work in their own works. However, the vast majority of readers has little knowledge of these specialized works and therefore it seems necessary to me to recall briefly the biography of Gumilev, all the more so because, as is well known, the writer based his works on what he had himself lived through and formed his convictions first of all based on his personal life experience.

Nikolay Stepanovich Gumilev was born on 3 (15) April 1886 into the family of a ship's doctor in Kronstadt. The family used to spend the summer months at the Berezki estate in Ryazan Province (guberniya), where Gumilev's grandfather lived. Nikolay was still a small boy when his father entered retirement. The family moved to Tsarskoye Selo, not far from Petersburg. The future poet began to write poems early, at 8 years from birth. Nikolay entered the gymnasium there, in Tsarskoye Selo, but soon afterwards the family moved to Tiflis, where Gumilev went into the 4th grade at the gymnasium -- he was then 14 years old. At that time, according to fellow pupils, perhaps to be fashionable, perhaps seriously, Gumilev was attracted by socialism, read Marx, and not only read him but, it turned out, propagandized him among the mill workers, which was noted with displeasure by the local authorities.

It was in Tiflis, in September 1902, that the poet's first poetry was published in the newspaper TIFLISSKIY LISTOK.

In 1903, the family returned to Tsarskoye Selo. Nikolay Gumilev entered the 7th grade at the Tsarskoye Selo gymnasium, the director of which was the well-known poet Innokentiy Fedorovich Annenskiy. There is no doubt that Gumilev was impressed by his proximity to the great poet and that he, of course, tried to impress him. According to the words of his comrades, he was not a particularly diligent student; he did not like mathematics and other precise sciences, but made up for this by giving his entire soul to poetry. When he was in the final grade at the gymnasium, he published his first collection of poems, which he called "The Way of the Conquistadores".

In it, Gumilev was full of still undefined, romantic dreams.

Later Gumilev himself regarded this first collection as an immature experiment; he considered it unworthy of reissue and never included poems from it in any of his later books.

After finishing the gymnasium in 1907, Nikolay Gumilev travelled to Paris to continue his education. There, he entered the Sorbonne, where he took classes in French literature.

Gumilev did not finish the Sorbonne where, evidently, he didn't study any more diligently than at the gymnasium, completely giving himself over to literary distractions. In Paris, he began to publish a small literary journal entitled "Sirius". The authors of this journal were he himself (under various pseudonyms) and a young poetess named Anna Gorenko, whom Gumilev had known back in Tsarskoye Selo. This young poetess was destined to later become his wife and we know her as the wonderful poet Anna Akhmatova. Incidentally, although she also was published in "Sirius", Anna Akhmatova did not greatly approve of this project of Gumilev and, in a letter dated 13 March 1907, wrote to one of her acquaintances:

"Why has Gumilev involved himself in 'Sirius'? This surprises me and puts me in a singularly merry mood. How many misfortunes has our Nikolay suffered, and all in vain! Have you noticed that his collaborators are almost all just as well-known and respected as I? I think that God has muddled Gumilov's brain. This happens."

As might be expected, this literary venture of Gumilov did not end in success. Altogether, three thin issues of the journal appeared, and with this its existence came to an end. It was also there, in Paris, in 1908, that Gumilev put out the second book of his poems, entitled "Romanticheskiye tsvety" (Romantic Flowers). But this book also did not bring him great fame. "Evil Charms", "Strings of Pearls", "Secrets of the Moment", and its other hackneyed poetic "formulas", confused by images of fairies, kings, courtesans, Roman consuls, emperors, and so on, and so on, could not attract serious readers.

Platonic dreaming alone did not satisfy the young poet, full of his romantic strivings. He thirsted for some sort of practical activity. He was attracted by new, unknown worlds. Not satisfied with reading and by imagined wanderings through exotic lands, in searches for "heavens and hells", happy and full of strength, he set out on his first trip through Africa, which for him had always been a land of dreams and adventure.

Gumilev wrote to his father about his long-standing dream of making such a trip and asked for money. But his father considered this a fruitless enterprise and not only did not send the money, but also withheld his blessing from such an extravagance, adding that he must first finish the university and only then should he undertake such travel. Possessed by his dream, the poet, of course, did not listen to the exhortations of his father and, having saved a part of the money which his parents sent him every month to live on, he nevertheless set out on the trip. It was, naturally, a very modest one, considering the funds at his disposal; food was not very abundant and he sometimes attempted to ride as a 'stowaway'. In order to conceal the trip from his strict father, he wrote several letters in advance, left them with friends, and had them mail these from Paris every two weeks.

In 1908, Gumilev returned from Africa to Paris and from there to Russia. In Russia, a new review of his collection of poems, "Romantic Flowers", written by Valeriy Bryusov, awaited him. This time, Bryusov's review of the collection was more favorable.

It is evident that Bryusov departed from a detailed evaluation of the book; he spoke more about the form and technique of the poetry, and agreed with what Gumilev had demonstrated in this collection: that his hand -- in the sense of form -- had become more experienced and his technique more polished.

The attitude toward Gumilev in the literary circles of the time was not terribly favorable. The poet himself wrote directly and frankly about this in

a letter to Bryusov dated 8 January 1907.

Not having received recognition in Merezhkovskiy's circle, Gumilev nonetheless found himself close literary companions. In Tsarskoye Selo, he frequently visited with I. F. Annenskiy and he made the acquaintance of S. K. Makovskiy. Makovskiy established the journal "Apollon". This journal began to come out in October 1909. And on 30 November of that same year, Annenskiy died suddenly of a heart attack at a railroad station in Petersburg. From this time on, Gumilev became one of the main assistants to Makovskiy on the journal, and not only an assistant in matters of its publication, but also as a sort of staff poetry critic. In the course of several years, he published a series of articles about Russian poetry in "Appolon".

Thus there appeared criticism which concerned itself especially with poetry, something that has not often happened in our literature. Moreover, this critic was not a dry analyst, but a man possessing a poetic gift, an emotional perception of poetry, a connoisseur and already a master of poetic technique. Gumilev succeeded in doing a whole series of articles about the leading poets at the beginning of the 20th century -- about V. Bryusov, F. Sollogub, K. Balmonte, Andrey Bely, S. Gorodetskiy, I. Bunin, Vyach, Ivanov, A. Blok, N. Klyuyev, M. Tsvetayeva, O. Mandelshtam, and others of his contemporaries.

As stands to reason, the critical articles of Gumilev express primarily his personal taste, his sympathies and his antipathies. But it is precisely these personal predilections which help us to imagine the variety of opinions and judgements existing at that time, to create a total picture of the literary life of that era.

In these same years, Gumilev used "Apollon" to publish his unique theoretical works: "The Life of a Poem". "The Legacy of Symbolism and Acmeism", and "The Anatomy of a Poem". He also wrote articles about French 19th Century poetry, about Teofil Gotye, Verkharn, about French national songs, and others.

On 25 April 1910, Gumilev married Anna Andreyevna Gorenko, with whom, as already noted, he had become acquainted as a young man in Tsarskoye Selo. Contact between them had not been broken all these years. We are accustomed to thinking that, for people with such lofty poetic souls, love must also be something special. But, alas, this is not always the case...

NOVYY MIR No. 9 1986, published 9 letters written by Anna Akhmatova, which date to precisely the period preceding her marriage. Anna Andreyevna was seriously ill and was undergoing treatment in the Crimea. Her lung disease was complicated by still unrequited love for Vladimir Golenishchev-Kutuzov, then a student in the faculty of eastern languages at Petersburg University.

Here is what Anna Akhmatova wrote about her condition in a letter in 1906:

"...Will Kutuzov be in Petersburg for Christmas... From thoughts that my trip may not take place, I fell ill...I have a fever, palpitations of the heart, an

unbearable headache...I have already not slept for four nights...Yesterday, I fell to the floor in a faint, there was nobody in the entire apartment...How wretched and useless I am. Mainly, I'm not needed, by anyone, ever. It would be easy to die...I tried to hang myself in Yevpatoria, and the nail sprung out of the mortar wall... There is no light. I am not writing poems. Shameful? But why? Answer me, rather, about Kutuzov. He is everything for me."

And already considering herself Gumilev's fiance, she does not part with Kutuzov's photograph. "...He is here with me... I can see him -- it is so insanely good... I will not be able to tear my soul away from him. I am poisoned for my whole life. Bitter is the poison of indivisible love! Will I be able to begin to live again? Of course not! But Gumilev is my fate, and I submissively surrender myself to it. Do not condemn me, if you can. I swear to you by everything that is sacred to me, that this unhappy man will be happy with me."

In that same year of 1910, Gumilev put out a new, third book of poems. He named it in the spirit of tradition "Zhemchuga" (The Pearls). It should be said, by the way, that this was the first book which brought him wide popularity. The book bore the notation "Dedicated to my teacher, Valeriy Bryusov," however in a new edition in 1918 this dedication was deleted. The edition of 1910 had four sections: "The Black Pearl", "The Gray Pearl", "The Pink Pearl", and "Romantic Flowers". The latter contained several poems from the collection of the same name. (Incidentally, the first edition of "Romantic Flowers" in 1908 appeared with the dedication: "To Anna Andreyevna Gorenko.")

In "Russkaya Mysl", Valeriy Bryusov also published a review of the poet's new book. As in his earlier reviews, Bryusov remained both a severe and demanding but, nevertheless, well-wishing teacher.

The reviewer's words justly noted both the merits and the faults of Gumilev's poetry. And this time, Bryusov particularly emphasized the growth of the poet's mastery in the area of form.

Vycheslav Ivanov noted a characteristic feature in the developmental direction of Gumilev's talent in his review of "The Pearls" in "Apollon":

"When the actual experience of the soul, purchased with suffering and love, tears asunder the veils which still cloud the poet's view of the world's dry reality, the 'dry land and water' will be separated in it, then his lyrical epos will become an objective epos and a pure lyric -- his hidden lyricism -- then for the first time he will belong to life."

This was a correct prediction, for which the poems provided every basis. But a real relationship to the world appeared only in the final collection of poems published during the poet's lifetime. But more about this later.

Gumilev and Akhmatova, returning from their honeymoon, settled for the summer in the village of Slepnevo, not far from the estate of the Nevedomskiy family, with whom the young couple had become fast friends.

In her memoirs, Nevedomskaya says that "there was a feature in Gumilev's character which forced him to seek out and to create risky situations..." She also notes his attraction to purely physical danger. I want also to call attention to Nevedomskaya's statement that Gumilev had a "total absence of fear," because we are approaching the war years, in which these character traits of Gumilev manifested themselves with particular force.

In 1911, the Gumilevs' son, Lev, was born. Lev Nikolayevich Gumilev became a well-known Soviet historical scholar and presently lives and works in Leningrad.

The fate of Gumilev's son was very difficult. For many years, he was under arrest. After the 20th Party Congress, Akhmatova appealed to Fadeyev "to speed up consideration of her son's case" and to help restore justice. The journal NOVYY MIR No. 12, 1961, published a letter written by A.A. Fadaeyev on 2 March 1956, in which he asked the Chief Military Procuracy to reexamine the case of Lev Gumilev. At the same time, he emphasized the following circumstance: "In the investigation of the case of L.N. Gumilev, it is also necessary to consider the fact (although he was only 9 years old when his father died) that Lev Gumilev, as the son of N. Gumilev and A. Akhmatova, can always serve as 'convenient' material for all careerist and hostile elements to raise all sorts of accusations against him. I think that it is fully possible to investigate his case objectively."

L.N. Gumilev was soon freed. He began to work in the Asiatic Department of the Hermitage. In 1960, the Institute of Eastern Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences published his important work, "The Hun: Central Asia and Ancient Times." This is a history of the early Huns. Now a doctor of historic sciences, Professor L.N. Gumilev is engaged in important scientific and pedagogical work. He is the author of many scientific works and books.

However, let us return to that happy day when their son, Lev, was born to the young couple.

Full of creative energy and, at the same time as a critic, able to comprehend more deeply the developmental course of Russian poetry Nikolay Gumilev sought the possibility of somehow organizationally uniting those poets, whose views approximated his own, within a creative school. Thus, the "Poets' Guild" was born. Many well-known poets joined it.

those years, a crisis was apparent within symbolism; there were hot arguments among the symbolists and, in these arguments, Blok, Vyach, Ivanov and Valeriy Bryusov found themselves in different camps. And two years later, in 1913, in issue No. 1 of "Appolon", Nikolay Gumilev and Sergey Gorodetskiy published two articles which amounted to a kind of manifesto, calling for acmeism to replace symbolism.

Gumilev soon became the recognized leader of the new literary trend, which placed itself in opposition not only to symbolism, but also to futurism, which was springing up at that time.

The new group explained its split with symbolism by citing dissatisfaction with the poetic and interpretive directions it was taking. Gumilev wrote the following in this regard:

"Russian symbolism has directed its main energies to the area of the unknown. By turns, it has flirted now with mysticism, now with theosophy, now with occultism." And, moreover, Gumilev asserted, "the unknowable, by definition, cannot be known... All attempts in this direction are pointless... A childishly wise, painfully sweet sensation of our own ignorance -- this is what the unknowable gives us..." Sergey Gorodetskiy, in his statement, characterized the new trend as follows: "The struggle between acmeism and symbolism... is first of all a struggle for this world, having sounds, beauty, forms, weight and time, for our planet Earth... After all sorts of 'unpleasantries', the world will finally accept acmeism in its totality of beauty and ugliness."

These broad and promising assurances sounded attractive but, frankly speaking, the name "acmeism" was a nebulous one which said little about the essence of the new literary school. The expansive promises contained in the declarations of the young poets still did not mean that a new realism had appeared in poetry. Promising to show in full scope the richness and diversity of life, the founders of the new school maintained subjectivity, secrecy, and also extreme individualism within their poems, because these were very deeply ingrained in their creativity. The representatives of acmeism, those such as Anna Akhmatova, Mandelshtam, Gorodetskiy and Gumilev himself, each retained his own, not always realistic, attitude toward life, toward its representation.

The acmeist principles in Gumilev's creative work, he believed, were expressed in his new collection "Chuzhoye nebo" (Another's Heaven), which came out in 1912. Besides his own poems, Gumilev included translations of four poems by Teofil Gotye in this collection.

The poem "Iskusstvo" [Art], it may be said, most clearly expresses the essence of acmeism.

Creation is the more beautiful,
The more dispassionate the material,

Chosen --

A verse, marble, or metal.

.....

Be off, easy approaches

A shoe for all feet,

Known

Both to paupers and to the gods.

.....

Create mermaids of green

With a smile on their lips.

Bowed

Monsters on coats-of-arms.

.....

And the gods themselves perish

But a verse will not cease to sing

Arrogent,

Mightier, than copper...

In 1912, Gumilev traveled to Italy, where he obtained many fresh impressions; they gave birth to new poems, which he published in "Russkaya Mysl".

In 1913, Gumilev undertook still another trip to the Africa which was so dear to his heart. This time, he headed a scientific expedition of the Academy of Sciences. New poems resulted, of course, from this trip. Gumilev's sympathies when travelling through Africa were synonymous. There could be no false rumors there, and there is no need to carry out any kind of research and investigations.

The year 1914, so tragic for all of Europe because of the First World War which began in the summer, was also not cloudless for Gumilev, primarily in a personal sense. First of all, a split with his wife, Anna Akhmatova, began to appear. Here is what he said about this in the poem "Pyatistopniye yamby" (Iambic Pentameter):

You said, reflecting, sternly:

--'I believed, loved too much,

But I am leaving, not believing, not loving,

And in the face of All-seeing God,

Perhaps, destroying myself,

Forever, I renounce you.' --

.....

And you went away in a simple and dark dress,

Resembling the ancient Raspatye.

Not long before the war, an argument occurred in Petrograd between Gumilev and the poet Voloshin. The disagreement between the poets turned out to be so serious that it led to a duel. The cause was accidental: Before the argument Gumilev and Voloshin were acquaintances and, on the day of the argument, they had arrived at the workshop of the artist A. Ya. Golovin, not suspecting that they would leave as enemies.

The mythical female poetess Cherubina de Gabriak died at this duel between the two male poets, because after this incident she ceased to exist. Thus, Y. I. Dmitriyeva (later Vasilyeva) never grew into an important poetess; she more successfully occupied herself with dramatic arts and with teaching.

Gumilev had always been attracted by battles, victories, and weapons and therefore he greeted the beginning of the war not as an evil, but as a possibility to distinguish himself in martial affairs. He did not understand the imperialistic essence of the First World War, the evil and misfortune which it inflicted on the peoples who were thrown into the fires of war thanks to a rearrangement of the spheres of influence and profits of the bourgeoisie, and to the territorial pretensions of the imperial families. A fervent patriot and monarchist, Gumilev accepted this war precisely as it was portrayed in the call of the official authorities to stand up for the fatherland and protect it from its enemies. During the first months of the War, Gumilev became a "volunteer", as they then called people who entered the army of their own free will. Incidentally, this step of his is also reflected in the lines of the same "Iambic Pentameter".

Thus, on 24 August 1914, Nikolay Stepanovich Gumilev became a volunteer in the life guards of the Ulan Regiment, in which he was given the privileges voluntary soldier. Gumilev did everything he could in order to immediately get into the regular army.

While at the front, Nikolay Gumilev was (in our modern terminology) assigned to military intelligence; he served in a mounted reconnaissance platoon and went through the many dangers, difficulties and adventures associated with this service. But he also did not forget that he was a writer; along with the poems which he stored up in his soul and later compiled in a book, Gumilev also wrote prose. This was his "Zapiski kavalerista" (Notes of a Cavalry Soldier). They were printed in the newspaper BIRZHEVYYE VEDOMOSTI from February 1915 through January 1916. These notes were accompanied by the notation "From our special military correspondent".

Having served in military intelligence during the years of the Second World War, I understand what Gumilev lived through in those distant times. In many ways, his feelings are similar to those which we also experienced. I can say with complete certainty that Gumilev was a true military intelligence officer

in the best sense of this word -- a brave, enthusiastic, audacious, good-spirited and, despite his poetic love of freedom, a disciplined soldier.

For bravery in battle, Gumilev was promoted to junior officer, and on 25 December, was awarded his second Heroic Cross, this one of the Third Degree. In the spring, specifically in March 1916, again for excellence in battle and personal valor, Nikolay Gumilev was promoted to ensign (praporshchik). In those years, an ensign was an officer's rank which corresponded to our modern rank of junior lieutenant. Having obtained officer rank, Gumilev also received a new assignment to the Fifth Hussars Aleksandriyskiy Regiment, where he arrived in April 1916.

In August 1916, ensign Gumilev was detached to the Nikolayevsk Cavalry School in order to take an examination for the next officer's rank. He remained at this school until October 1916, but did not pass the examination. The reason that this happened is not known, but from available information, indicating that Gumilev ended up in a military infirmary during these months, it can be assumed that he failed to pass the examination because he fell ill. During the time he was recovering in the infirmary, Gumilev wrote poetry and met with Petersburg friends who had come to visit him.

In the same year of 1916, Gumilev's fifth book of poetry, which he called "Kolchan" (The Quiver) came out. Several poems written during the war years were included in it.

As we have already said, Gumilev was a representative of his class and he shared the ideas and views of that society to which he belonged; therefore, it is natural that his poems also reflected monarchist views and a corresponding attitude toward the war. He perceived the war as a just and noble affair.

In May 1917, Gumilev was assigned to an expeditionary corps, located in the West, at the disposition of allied forces. Gumilev's route lay through Finland, Sweden, Norway and London. He stopped for several days in London, where he met with his old friends and they even succeeded in introducing him to several English literary figures.

In June 1917, Gumilev was in Paris. Little is known about his service there, but even the little information available gives me a basis for putting forward a proposition which nobody has made before, that Gumilev was serving in Russian intelligence. The basis for this hypothesis is that he was in intelligence on the front and that in Paris, and later in London, he was connected with the military attache. I cannot support this proposition with irrefutable documents, but there are papers which indirectly support this, even if they are the official "Notes about Abyssinia" written by Gumilev's own hand. This is an intelligence document characterizing the mobilization potential of Abyssinia for supplementing the forces of the allies, which Gumilev named a "Memorandum on the apparently strong possibilities of recruiting a detachment of volunteers." In detail and

knowledgeably, Gumilev sets forth the mobilization potential of the Abyssinian tribes. This memorandum was written by Gumilev in the French language and, evidently, was used by both the Russian and the French commands.

And there is one more piece of evidence: In London, Gumilev received money for his return to Russia not from just anybody, but specifically "from the military agent in Great Britain". There is a document which reads as follows: "Fifty-four (54) pounds sterling have been issued by the military agent in Great Britain to Ensign Gumilev for return to Russia..." And after an accounting of money issued for the various segments of his itinerary, stands the signature of the "Assistent Military Agent in Great Britain, Major General Dyakonov, 10/23 January 1918, London.

In April 1918, Gumilev left London and set out for Petersburg via Murmansk -- at that time, this was the only route for return to the motherland while avoiding the fronts.

In May 1918, revolutionary waves were raging in Petrograd. But the stormiest, must tense days of the October Revolution of 1917 and the revolutionary changes following it had occurred while Gumilev was abroad. Many students of his life and creative work assert that Gumilev was isolated from the revolutionary events, didn't understand them, and that it was therefore that the tragic event occurred which cut short his life. In my view, this proposition is not entirely true. Gumilev, having returned to the motherland, continued to live within his literary circle. That same year saw his final break-up with Anna Akhmatova and they were officially divorced. But Gumilev was neither depressed nor distracted. As befits a young man, he quickly fell in love and the year after his divorce already married Anna Nikolayevna Engelgard, a writer's daughter, who was very beautiful. In 1920 a daughter, Yelena, was born to the young couple.

Gumilev threw himself into the literary world which he missed during the years of war and his stay abroad. He gave lectures and engaged in literary activities at the Institute of Art History as well as in the all different kinds of studios which frequently sprung up in those days. For example, in the Baltic Fleet studio and in the Proletkult. He was a member of the editorial board of the Worldwide Literature publishinghouse, which was directed by Gorkiy, where he edited a poetical series, and did a lot of translation work. He translated a ballad by Robert Southey and S. Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner". In these years the "Ballads of Robin Hood" appeared, many of them translated by Gumilev and with a preface written by Gorkiy. Together with Batyushkoviy and Chukovskiy, Gumilev compiled a book about the principles of artistic translation.

Soon after his return, Gumilev reissued the collections of his poems entitled "Romantic Flowers" and "The Pearls", having reviewed, revised, and supplemented them. In the same year of 1918, he published a new, sixth collection entitled "Koster" (The Campfire), in which he included poems written in 1916-1917.

In 1921, Gumilev traveled to the Crimea. In Sevastopol he published the collection "Shater" (The Tent), into which went poems written before 1921. Romantic poems predominate in it: although they were written in his later years, they are in the style of the "old" Gumilev. And the dedication speaks of Gumilev's earlier wanderings: "To the memory of my comrade in the African countries, Nikolay Leonidovich Sverchkov." Also, the very names of the poems recall them: "The Red Sea", "Egypt", "The Sahara", "The Suez Canal", "Abyssinia", "The Zambesi", etc. etc.

In the beginning of the 1920's, Nikolay Gumilev was extremely popular among the poets of Petrograd. This is evidenced by the fact that it was he, Gumilev, instead of Blok, who, in February 1921, was chosen director of the Petersburg section of the All-Russian Union of Poets.

The relationship between Gumilev and Blok was always respectful, but not friendly. It would be more correct to say that it was different in different years.

Gumilev's name is often encountered in Blok's diaries, usually because of their joint work in the Worldwide Literature publishing house. In K. Chukovskiy's book about A. Blok, where he is writing about the work of the editorial board of this publishing house, he says that its meetings sometimes lasted all day. Blok did not speak much at the sessions themselves.

"Most often," writes Chukovskiy, "Blok talked with Gumilev. Both poets carried on an endless argument about poetry. Gumilev, with his usual fearlessness, attacked Blok's symbolism."

Blok always parried no less brilliantly. These were not idle conversations, the caustic exchanges of sharp-witted writers. Rather, their argument was conducted on the basis of principle, as witnessed by the fact that it was continued publically in the press. Here is what Blok wrote in 1921 (when he was already very ill, three months before his death) in an article entitled "Without God, Without Inspiration," which was almost totally directed against the theories and positions of Gumilev:

"N. Gumilev pontificates: 'A poet is someone who will consider all the laws which govern the complex of words he has chosen. A person who considers only part of these laws will be a writer of literary prose, while one considering nothing but the ideas contained in his words and their combinations will be a man of letters, a creator of business prose...

"N. Gumilev and certain other 'acmeists', doubtlessly gifted, are drowning themselves in the cold swamp of heartless theories and all sorts of formalism; they sleep a deep sleep without dreams; they do not have, do not want to have a shade of an idea about Russian life and about the life of the world in general; In their poetry (and consequently in their own selves), they suppress the main thing, the only valuable thing -- the soul.

"If they all would untie their hands, would become, if only for a minute, rough, unpolished, even misshapen and, as a result, more like their crippled, burnt, dirty, looted, destroyed native land! But no, they do not want to and will not be able to do this; they want to be splendid foreigners, members of corporations and guilds; In any case, it will be possible to talk seriously with each of them and about each of them only when they leave their "guilds", disavow formalism, damn all "ideologies", and become themselves."

Many, who knew Gumilev in these years, note that he avoided talking about politics, did not express his own, doubtlessly, monarchist convictions, and also did not condemn the revolution or all the things that were taking place around him in those days. He considered himself a poet, lived for literature, and was entirely taken up by literary thoughts, arguments, and distractions. And, also, the number of collections he published, the translations he did, the reeditions he prepared, and the addresses and lectures he gave during a very short period of time demonstrate that Gumilev gave himself entirely to his work and to care of his family and that he tried to remain somewhat distant from politics.

His last collection of poems, which appeared in 1921, Gumilev named "Ognennyy stolp" (Pillar of Fire). Into this collection went the poems which he had written after his return to the motherland, during the period of the most intense revolutionary changes in Russia. These were already the poems of an entirely different Gumilev. He was leaving the acmeism which was his own invention. On one hand, he was coming closer to real life, was looking inside it, was trying to understand it, and on the other hand, not understanding this life, not understanding its progressive changes, he was, however, entering into a different world. But if this was earlier a romantic world, heroic and beautiful, then now, finding nothing in surrounding events which inspired him personally, the poet retreated into mysticism, seemingly returned to symbolism, to its murkiness. The first group of poems, where Nikolay Gumilev takes an intense look at himself, not as a conventional romantic but a participant in everything that is taking place, can be illustrated by the poem "Pamyat" (Memory).

Memory, you are weaker from year to year,
Is it this one or someone else
who has exchanged happy freedom
for holy long-awaited combat.
Knows he the torments of hunger and thirst,
The uneasy sleep, the endless way,
Still Saint George two times touched
A breast untouched by a bullet.

.

The heart will be by a flame scorched
Right to the day, when the clear walls
of a new Jerusalem rise up.
On the fields of my native land
I will cry out... but really who will help,--
that my soul does not die?
Only snakes cast off their skins,
We change souls, not bodies.

Already here, as we see, both the real world, as well as specific recollections (even about two Georges), and meditations also flow from modern sufferings and strivings.

In this connection, the poem "Zabludivshiysya tramvay" (The Errant Streetcar) is particularly indicative of the state of Gumilev's spirits during those days. The very image, conceived by the poet, of a streetcar that has lost its way, that has come off its steel path, which would seem to have been set for once and all, shows that, in the eyes of Gumilev, his own life and, in general, all life, has left its rails, that something incomprehensible and strange was taking place. His spiritual state is very evident from the stanza:

Where am I? So faintly and so anxiously
My heart beats in answer:
You see the station, at which you can
Buy a ticket to the India of the Spirit.

Gumilev was able only to assemble and prepare "The Pillar of Fire" for publication (He dedicated it to his second wife -- Anna Nikolayevna), and the book came out after his death, in a small edition, altogether 1,000 copies, but at that time, editions of poetic collections were generally not large.

In the poems included in "The Pillar of Fire", Gumilev, without doubt, achieved the height of his poetic mastery.

In "The Pillar of Fire", it is as if Gumilev had a premonition that something bad would happen to him. But, as in his poem "The Errant Streetcar", he didn't know where he was going. For him, it was "difficult to breathe and painful to live", and he did not even know where it was, this "India of the Spirit", where he could hide himself from the incomprehensible and foreign reality which surrounded him. Besides the turning point toward real life, which Gumilev approached so closely for the first time, this collection is distinguished by increased emotional force. This had also been felt earlier in his poems. Then it seemed somewhat artificial, enthusiastically romantic,

but now Gumilev was writing from the depths of his heart, without any fantasies; here is a suffering Gumilev -- suffering sincerely and honestly.

We have come to the concluding, most difficult to describe, period in the life of the poet. Some researchers explain the unexpected end to Gumilev's life by saying that he did not understand what was going on, that he strayed into a whirlwind of political events and revolutionary changes, and that, therefore, allegedly not having understood all this, accidentally fell in with people plotting against the revolution. Others, to the contrary, assert that Gumilev, as a person who had not accepted the revolutionary changes, came to this denouement quite naturally, that his participation in the plot confirms this, and that they simply do not see any other way given his convictions. There is also a viewpoint, which explains the appearance of Gumilev's "second popularity," not as a poet, but as a man who "suffered innocently" from Soviet power.

I will not take it upon myself to play the role of arbiter, without knowing the details of the case and not being acquainted with the materials from the investigation, but the short communique in the newspaper, which related Gumilev's guilt, for which he was condemned, provides grounds for making certain judgements.

Gumilev was arrested on 3 August 1921 on the charge of having participated in a plot by a counterrevolutionary Petrograd military organization headed by V. N. Tagantsev. On 1 September 1921, PETROGRADSKAYA PRAVDA, in an article entitled "On the Discovery in Petrograd of a Plot Against Soviet Power", reported on the many counterrevolutionary activities of this conspiracy and about the degree of guilt of each of the 61 participants.

I repeat: I am not undertaking to judge the degree of Gumilev's guilt, but the court also did not establish his innocence. In the years when Gumilev was convicted, there were also open trials (for example, in 1924, the trial in the case of Savinkov, which took place in Moscow, in the Hall of Columns, was widely reported in the press. Savinkov was given the opportunity to speak out in court and to provide written materials to the press.) As we see, there was a similar report in the press about the Tagantsev plot.

About Gumilev, in particular, the following was said:

"Gumilev Nikolay Stepanovich, 35 years old, former nobleman, philologist, poet, board member of the Worldwide Literature publishing house, non party-member, former officer. Participant in the Petrograd military organization, actively helped to compose proclamations having counterrevolutionary content, promised to involve himself in the organization as soon as a group of intellectuals appeared, who would actively take part in the insurrection, received money for technical needs."

Without casting doubt on the decision of the court, I want simply to express certain logical conclusions regarding the circumstances in which Gumilev found himself.

He was an officer. Rank makes a unique imprint on the behavior, on the way of life, and on the relationships of military people. Soviet officers have rejected many traditions unsuitable for the Soviet Army. But to me, a former Soviet officer, it is understandable, for example, why, up until the revolution, officers resorted to duels and lost their lives defending their honor, in response to insults by word, to say nothing of insults by deed. Understanding this, I can imagine a Gumilev, who was apparently approached by friends or officers with he had earlier served, who, knowing him as a person loyal to his own circle, evidently proposed that he take part in the plot and that, as a start, he write a proclamation. But, as far as I know, he did not write this proclamation. I don't know what stopped him, perhaps he didn't want to or didn't have the time. Further in the charges it is said that he "promised to become involved". But he promised, again, on the basis of these purely officer relationships; he simply could not refuse his comrades, even if he did not share their thinking. He promised for old friendship's sake. But, indeed, the newspaper does not say that he carried out this promise. It is also known that, at the time of his arrest, that particular money which had been remitted to Gumilev "for technical needs" was confiscated from his desk. But, if this money was confiscated, then Gumilev simply did not succeed in carrying out or paying for whatever kind of activity this money was intended for. But, in my view, the most convincing evidence of Gumilev's loyalty is found in the fact that he had no anti-Soviet poems. Not a single one! And this has a great deal to say about this. I think that, even if Gumilev was guilty and even if my reasons for his rehabilitation are unconvincing, the motherland is in a position to pardon him -- such a form of forgiveness exists, even for someone who has committed a crime.

Incidentally, Konstantin Simonov has spoken out very precisely and definitely in this regard:

"...Certain literary figures have proposed that Gumilev be all but be rehabilitated by the organs of Soviet justice, that he be declared, after the fact, not guilty of that for which he was shot in 1921. I personally do not understand and do not share this position. Gumilev took part in one of the counter-revolutionary plots in Petrograd -- this is an established fact... We accept this fact as a given. History is history.

But having called all things by their true names, we nonetheless publish the collected poems of Gumilev, because he wrote many good poems, poems not in the least hostile to us, and produced many remarkable translations, and because it is impossible to write the history of Russian poetry in the 20th century without recalling Gumilev, his poetry and his critical work, as the author of a book on Russian poetry, as well as his relationships with Blok, with Bryusov, and with other outstanding poets."

Of course, there were many scholars, writers, and military officers who, during the stormy days of the revolution, understood in the final analysis the meaning of the changes which were taking place and not only realized their necessity, but also came over to the side of the party which was accomplishing these revolutionary transformations. I will name only a few: the writer, Count Aleksey Nikolayevich Tolstoy, the scholar and, from 1907 on, academician Ivan Petrovich Pavlov and, from the military world, tsarist army Colonel Aleksandr Ilich Yegorov and general staff Colonel Boris Mikhaylovich Shaposhnikov -- both of whom later became marshals of the Soviet Union, as well as thousands of former tsarist army officers.

In general, I have not wanted in this article to analyze either the Gumilev "case" or the degree of his guilt. The main thing for me is the person of a poet who has become a part of Russian literature. He has, is, and will continue to live on in it, independent of any coincidental, temporary, extraneous features.

There are the poems of Gumilev. Very many of them are remembered and loved, this is an indisputable fact. Evidence of this is the recently published selection of Gumilev's poems in the book "Literaturnaya Rossiya" (Literary Russia) and in the journal OGENEK, and Akhmatova's letters to Gumilev and his poems from the period of his marriage to Akhmatova which appeared in NOVYY MIR. But an even more solid tribute to his memory is the book "Izbrannoye" (Selections) of N. Gumilev, which is now being readied for the 100th anniversary of the poet's birthday.

That which Gumilev succeeded in writing has remained in the memory of many and many lovers of our country's poetry. The remarkable and original poet Nikolay Gumilev has survived for 100 years, for a whole century, in our literature. He has survived this century in his own way, both as a poet and as a man. And the century-mark which we celebrate this year is not, of course, the final border where his fate as a writer will come to an end.

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CULTURE

CRITICS HOLD ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION OF AYTMATOV'S NOVEL

Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Oct 86 p 4

[Discussion of Chingiz Aytmatov's novel "Plakha" [Executioner's Block] under rubric "LG's Non-Round Table": "Paradoxes of the Novel or Paradoxes of Perception?"]

[Text] The following critics and specialists of literature participate in the discussion: Sergey Averintsev, Georgiy Gachev, Chingiz Guseynov, Vadim Kozhinov, Akhiyar Khakimov, and LG reviewer Alla Latynina.

The discussion leader is LG's deputy chief editor Ye. A. Krivitskiy.

Ye. Krivitskiy: I remember that the first meeting of our "non-round table" was devoted to "Pechalnyy detektiv" [The Sad Detective], by Viktor Astafyev. It appears to us that today, in the period of renewal of social and literary life, judging complex literary phenomena in the form of a monologue does not always have a convincing ring. Such phenomena give rise to contradictory opinions. The clash of these opinions, the struggle between them, the very exercise of thinking which takes place before the reader's eyes all encourage him to take a more thoughtful approach to literature and criticism, forming in the process his own, independent point of view.

Chingiz Aytmatov's novel "Plakha" is another example of readers' debates, of the clash of opinions. Without a doubt, we are dealing with a remarkable phenomenon of our literature.

Above all, great interest is aroused by the social acuteness of the problems posed by the author. But we are not going to close our eyes to the fact that some readers experienced incomprehension, one might even say bewilderment, and that at the center of the novel there stands a man who is searching for some sort of new religion as a prop for his own life and the life of all humanity. We cannot get away without commenting on and clarifying this peculiarity of the novel--the fact that evangelical characters appear in it. Not everyone is sure whether settings like this are compatible with an atheistic world view.

I hope that, among other questions, these will be touched upon.

The first word, of course, is rightly expected by Georgiy Dmitriyevich Gachev, who has written more about Aytmatov's creative work than anyone else sitting at our table.

G. Gachev: I read "Plakha," and a pang of reproach pierced my heart: you are always putting things off, while this man has rushed directly after what is most important and most difficult; the writer strains himself to say a final word: what he has understood during his life, to communicate, before the end of the world comes, and one's personal doom, for time is not exact, you may not have time.... This is how writing should always be: potentially your own last word and that of the world. We are on the eve of the end of the second millenium, and Aytmatov's book arises like the reply of the second millenium before the first, and even for all of "our era." And it is natural for characters to appear from whose birth our era originates.

You, Yevgeniy Alekseyevich, ask this question: Are Biblical characters compatible with the atheistic world view in an artistic work? Well, why not? There is a vast tradition in both painting and literature. We read Thomas Mann's "Joseph and His Brothers" and Bulgakov's "The Master and Margarita" fully understanding that the use of the figures of the patriarchs or Christ does not make these things facts of religious consciousness. In Aytmatov's book we have the passionate intonation, severe monologue form, seriousness, didacticism, and the moralizing book which we have grown unused to in the second half of the 20th century, when literature is frequently playful and merely entertaining.

A. Khakimov: Everything that Georgiy Dmitriyevich says is very interesting, but we are flying painfully high too soon. Wouldn't it be better to begin by discussing the topical nature of Aytmatov's novel? After all, we are touched primarily by the passion of the artist, who, in many painful questions, has expressed modern times in a new way.

Aytmatov's novel reflects the intensified moral seeking of our day, which is an indispensable condition of restructuring. For it is just these crucial moments in the life of society which impel writers and artistic figures to search for new forms and methods of artistic expression. The novel "Plakha" should be examined in light of these quests.

Ch. Guseynov: The point is: in his novel Aytmatov has touched on things which are archetypical today, which are discussed with pain and anger in the pages of our newspapers and from the highest tribunes. Aren't we really concerned with the fact that the working man must be given a stronger sense of being the master of his own land, of responsibility for his work, that he must be freed from all sorts of bureaucratic regulations, instruction memos, demagogic prohibitions, and so forth? And weren't those who organized the mass extermination of the saiga on the Moyunkum Savanna really irresponsible deceivers?

And isn't the conflict between Boston Urkunchiyev, who "regarded the sovkhos livestock as his own, as though they belonged to him personally," and the demagogue Kochkorbayev really topical in the highest degree? In Boston's

demand that summer and winter pastures be secured for his flock, Kochkorbayev sees a threat to the principles of socialist property and stubbornly blocks all the undertakings of a man who is concerned about only one thing--how to work better. We know how this conflict turns out in real life, but why did the Kochkorbayevs suppress the initiative of working people such as Boston for so many years?

We are justly proud that a number of our republics have traveled the path from feudal systems to socialism. But we forget that at the same time the numbers of people among us who are the stage of feudal-patriarchal relations with regard to the level of their attitudes have increased. Finding themselves under the conditions of socialism, they armed themselves with its phraseology and turn everything to the advantage of themselves and their own clannish interests. In Aytmatov's writing, Kochkorbayev dreams of great power. And what if such a man does get power? The events which are now coming to light in Kirghizia itself and in Central Asia show how difficult it is to fight against the Kochkorbayevs and how necessary it is to do this.

G. Gachev: Aytmatov's novel is paradoxical in that it is constructed--and soundly constructed--out of materials and characters who speak both directly and indirectly about our modern life: wolves, traffickers in anasha [a narcotic], Audius the seminarian, the dialogue between Pilate and Jesus--and the influence of the book on the reader's spirit is such that it bursts into the very heart of the internal world, like the alarm of the "voice of one crying in the wilderness." It is a call to each person's conscience. What is to be done: to wait while "all together" come to their senses and organize, or to begin on one's own? The conscience is also courage. And so the characters of the novel are those who dare to oppose evil at their own risk. This is the essence of the novel's topicality: in our days of reorganization, we need people who do not wait for directives from above to guide them, but rather perform good and necessary jobs themselves, immediately, where they are.

The novel is connected within itself three times by the fate of a pair of wolves.

Why wolves?

In Aytmatov's characters a merging of man and animal frequently occurs. The horse Gulsary and Chaban Tanabay form a kind of centaur. The camel Karanar in "Buranny Station" is a sort of double of Yedigey. The skewbald Dog and the Fish-Woman, the Boy and the Mother Deer--these are the distinctive Aytmatovian zodiac.

But they are all animals "under the law," acceptable for comparison with man in a positive plane. And the wolf is always a minus. But history has inverted its values. And now the wolf is our younger brother, an object of sympathy. And this is natural: while at one pole of the imagistic world of this book, the Wolf has turned up, the very antipode, it is accepted, of humanity, at the other pole the outlines of Jesus have come through as the symbol of humanity: just such a hero became necessary in the system of imagery for the harmonious coordination of ideas, themes, and motifs.

V. Kozhinov: Everything which Georgiy Dmitriyevich has said is completely correct in essence, but it seems to me that he did not talk about Aytmatov's novel at all.

These signs and symbols of a thousand years of world culture can be found at any level in whatever you take in everyday life itself, or drawn from any text. But in order for one of many millions of readers to see what Georgiy Dmitriyevich talked about, he would have to be Georgiy Dmitriyevich--that is, to develop within himself this apparatus for extracting the signs and symbols which are embodied in every human word. People are concerned not with the signs and symbols of culture, but with the direct correlation to modern times.

From this point of view, the design of Chingiz Aytmatov's novel "Plakha" is beyond any doubt interesting and significant. But the narration is of uneven level and characterization.

The third, final chapter of the novel, at the center of which is the impressive figure of the shepherd Boston Urkunchiyev, is mainly fluid prose which is complete unto itself. One of the unquestionable successes of Aytmatov, which has already been mentioned here, is the figure of Kochkorbayev. This character embodies the tendencies which are all but the main obstacle to carrying out our current great goals. Thus Boston, clearly the writer's favorite hero, says: "The trouble is that those such as Kochkorbayev are many in other places as well." And indeed, how many of them there have hitherto been even in our literary life!

The first few chapters of the novel are perceived to a significant degree as being merely drafts, materials for carrying out great and pointed artistic goals. Much of the writing here is too rough. The figure of Audius Kallistratov falls to pieces directly in front of our eyes: in particular, Audius's double crucifixion turns into a familiar comic element. The scenes with the for anasha dealers remind one of mediocre reporting.

Nevertheless, I would not grade the writer's work with a minus sign. The condemnation of the person who destroys nature, the sharp words concerning the increase of drug abuse, the confirmation of the need for high moral strivings, and the impassioned defense of the true caretaker of the land (the figure of Boston)--all of this we cannot but welcome.

I do not predict a long life for the novel, but I firmly hope that in our times it will play an important and ultimately fruitful role. I am resolved to say this: from the point of view of its author's striving, Aytmatov's new novel, I suggest, far surpasses the compositions--however more "successful" in the artistic plane--which preceded it. Much can be forgiven for the sake of this striving.

A. Latynina: But doesn't a paradoxical situation arise: a thing which is, he says, flawed, but has a stronger effect than "successful ones"? I question the possibility of an artistic effect from an unartistic text. If it does nevertheless arise, then could it be that there are some kind of mechanisms of artistry operating on us of which we are not fully aware?

Well here, for example, I agree that the third chapter is stronger than the first two. But let us suppose that Aytmatov published it as an independent story. Wouldn't it seem that if the more polished portion is isolated from the less perfect, it should gain by it? But, in my opinion, it loses. Because in fact it is connected with the other chapters not only by the line of the wolves. It becomes clear that the tragedy of Boston, accidentally killing his own son, who is carried away by a she-wolf (and he had cured the wolf!), is interwoven with the tragedy of Audius Kallistratov, who accepts his fate, his execution, his cross or execution block voluntarily.

And here we cannot get by without a thousand years of symbols of culture, which Georgiy Dmitriyevich is able so masterfully to derive--you do not derive them from everyday prose. Of course, the reader may not compare, for example, Boston with the heroes of classical tragedy of fate, but he cannot fail to sense that Boston and Audius traverse their tragic circles in a different manner. If Audius is unsuccessful and Boston is strongly written, then how do you explain the paradox that without Audius you cannot understand Boston?

For a number of scenes of the novel, I am not sure that it is worthwhile to approach them with the measure of psychological authenticity, or even to read them in the code of the psychological novel at all. When Kallistratov, for example, runs nude through the thickets of anasha and the she-wolf Akbara, having already overtaken him, decides to spare the strange naked man--are we interested in what hunting experts would have to say about this scene? The scene is still beautiful. But its sense is unfolded completely only in combination with the scene which Vadim Valerianovich found unsuccessful--the scene of Audius's crucifixion.

There is some kind of paradox, whether in the structure of the novel itself or in our perception: the places which appear to us to be not too successful and the places which are unquestionably strong are united so that they appear in some sort of strange coupling. Could it be that we simply do not have the criteria to evaluate the novel? Could it be that this is some other type of art?

G. Gachev: I would say, an unaccustomed type of art which we must attempt to understand. This is not simply a novel but a syncretic book, where there is mystery, and parable, and biography, and epic animal literature, and a philosophical dialogue, and a realistic story. In addition, the multiple-stage nature of artistic development makes itself felt in the multiple stages of types of artistic endeavor, which here forms a special bouquet. And it is strange to us. For example, let us try to read the Chinese novel "Dream in the Red Tower." For us it is difficult to sense its artistry. We are used to something different. We classify everything and we bring forward the standard pattern of the Department of Technical Control.

But every work of art is the object of individual artistic endeavor. The critic should capture it and explain it.

V. Kozhinov: Georgiy Dmitriyevich is so insistent on the need for discovering "a thousand years" of depth in the novel, that it is difficult for me to respond to his appeal. But, alas, it is from just this point of view that the novel is virtually the most vulnerable of all. After all, in resorting to

ancient myths and figures, it is impermissible to ignore their basic, essential significance, since otherwise their use is in no way justified, it is even ridiculous. But in the novel this obligatory condition is frequently not observed. I will mention just two examples. Aytmatov's Pilate, in complete contradiction to the universally familiar legend, turns out to be little more than a major criminal; for the sake of this, the wishes of his interlocutor are simplified and distorted--casting the latter in the guise of an ordinary liberal humanist sharply opposed to imperial Rome. In actual fact, everything was just the opposite: those who demanded that Pilate sanction the execution justifiably assumed that if everyone were to believe the new teaching, the Romans would ultimately seize control of "our place and that of our people." Also, we must not forget the fact that even the emperor Constantine, so it is claimed, exclusively adopted teachings contrary to Rome....

It is also impossible to pass by the fact that only a few pages after the scene with Pilate Aytmatov treats the thesis that "whoever is not with us is against us" as purely "imperial," while all the time it is Pilate's interlocutor who holds this proposition (moreover, it was expressed by him in a more pointed spirit: "Whoever is not with me is against me"). This one "case in point" is already enough to reveal clearly how complex the heart of the matter is in comparison with its treatment in the novel.

There are many other distortions and oversimplifications here as well, and they would be much better justified if they were all stated and propounded by Audius himself, who is, so to speak, a spiritual juvenile, attempting (as is required of him) to begin human history "from zero." But, unfortunately, the concepts in question are presented even in the zone of the author's own voice, and not merely his hero Audius.

A. Latynina: But, after all, literature has every right to reinterpret a tradition, in fact this, in essence, is its job. Another question is to what extent all of this is artistically convincing.

Now, about those episodes which you, Vadim Valerianovich, classify in the "zone of the author's own voice." It seems to me that they are all seen through the eyes of Aytmatov's hero. I would like to remind you here of the author's discussion of "historical synchronism"--the special ability of man to live a thinking life in different times, in distant centuries. Audius possesses this "historical synchronism"--he rushes about Jerusalem, searching for the house where the Last Supper is to take place, striving to warn the reader about the treachery of Judas Iscariot. He sobs because he cannot prevent the execution, and so forth. And the entire scene of the argument between Christ and Pilate is clearly lived through by Audius, and lived through, as Vadim Valerianovich so precisely expressed it, "by a spiritual juvenile." Moreover, Aytmatov loads the various incongruities of the scene squarely upon Audius, commenting for himself, as the author, that "the concept of a Day of Judgment over the world," which developed much later, was one which Audius placed "in the mouths of people who lived long before then--Audius was already so impatient that Pontius Pilate himself was told about this."

Ch. Guseynov: I also feel that it is impossible to identify Aytmatov with Audius, although with this author it is not always possible to distinguish

where Aytmatov leaves off and Audius begins. But nevertheless, the dialogue between Christ and Pontius Pilate goes on "according to the department" of Audius.

For me, the most important thing about Audius is not God-seeking abstractions but rather the character himself, a character directed toward an ideal, toward good, toward heroic deeds. What does he rise up against? Against the rapacious extermination of the saiga, against the corruption of young people with narcotics. Yes, he acts naively, rashly, and recklessly, but it is the very nature of his action which reveals the entire unsteadiness of his abstractions and ideals.

A. Khakimov: But aren't you surprised by arguments that the writer (not the hero of the novel, not Audius, but the author himself), far distant from the origination of Christianity, decided to rely on its notions of the so-called "savior"? If we grant this with regard to the author, then wouldn't it be limited to his dealings with subjects from the Koran? This, after all, is closer to him. Well, but if we are talking seriously, Aytmatov clearly gives us to understand that the ways and means of Audius's struggle, his quests and passions, lead only to a moral impasse. This may be called the sympathy of an author for an unlucky hero, but it can scarcely be called justified.

As for the use of Bible motifs, I think you have to keep in mind the reason for which this is done. We know that world literature in its best examples has made use of them in the name of the very highest goals. Let us recall just Blok's Christ, who went before the members of the 12th Red Guard. Thus the great poet affirmed the justness of the revolution.

Ch. Guseynov: I think that Aytmatov is interested not in the religious-mystical coverings of the conflict of good and evil, but rather a fully modern, social conflict. It is connected with the possible nuclear catastrophe which is hanging, as a thoroughly realistic threat, over humanity. Judgment Day, incidentally, as the novel brilliantly depicts, has already occurred for the animal world on Moyunkum Savanna and the mountains in the Issyk-Kul region. And if Aytmatov required the Christian myth in order to carry out this pointed social task--so what? He has the right to interpret it, although, of course, for a writer brought up in the culture of the East, it is very daring.

A. Latynina: Sergey Sergeyevich! In the article "Jesus Christ" in the encyclopedia "Mify narodov mira" [Myths of the Peoples of the World], you note that in the middle of the 19th century, after the appearance of Renan's book "The Life of Jesus," which turned its subject into a theme of historical fiction, "it was just such a Jesus Christ, who had completely ceased to be God but was keenly perceived in his suffering humanity, which became, for the liberal and democratic intelligentsia of the 19th century, one of its ideals, the embodiment of sacrificial love for the oppressed," and that Bulgakov's Joshua, "a righteous fool destroyed by the cowardly machine of power, sums up the results of the entire 'Renesque' era."

Well, I would like to ask about this "summing up results." Do you believe that this tradition has exhausted itself, or are any discoveries possible here? And what is your attitude toward the "evangelical" scenes of Aytmatov's novel, which have provoked the criticism of other readers?

S. Averintsev: The novel being discussed today is a part of our lives, a sign of the times. But the criticism you have referred to sounds like a man sitting at the table around 1936, and in front of him on the table, through a postal error, there are journals for half a century later than it is supposed to be time for, and so he gets angry at this lack of coordination with the "chronotop" [transliteration].

Now, about things which are more interesting and more difficult. I will try to answer your question. Yes, the "Renesque" tradition as such I consider exhausted, and the corresponding scenes in Mikhail Bulgakov are the culmination and conclusion of a kind of series. If their exaggerated, overplayed brilliance is justified (which contrasts to aesthetic advantage with Kramskiy, Nadson, and Tolstoyism, but which also muddies the true moralism of its predecessors by frivolous excitement), then it is by the fact that Bulgakov felt himself to be the last, and marked the end.

It is a natural and necessary motion, as Georgiy Dmitriyevich has just said, to take a glance, after 2,000 years, at what the gauge says--it will be repeated again and again. But you asked about discoveries. I think that discoveries are only possible on the path of "going beyond Renan." But what this path is like, no one ahead will say.

Today is not easy for me--as you know, I am not a critic but a philologist, a figure which is not very appropriate here. Philologists characteristically love precision and respect the real, we cannot do otherwise. But I will try to restrain myself and not complain too much that Pilate's wife twice calls him, if I am not mistaken, "Pontius." What are we to say about the realities of Rome or Jerusalem of 2,000 years ago, if a scene from the life of the Russian Orthodox Church of our times placidly mixes up the terms of address "otets [father]" and "vladyka," which are applied to the office of elder and the office of bishop and higher orders, respectively? But, strictly speaking, this is not the point. It is not necessary to be either a philologist or a historian or a religious studies expert, in order to take away one impression from a very superficial reading of the gospels: there are no banalities here. I think that any and every modern "reinterpretation" which we taken is obliged to give its dues to this property of the 2,000-year-old form. It must be said that, in his own way, Bulgakov took this into account: with him, traditional material is consistently transformed. Joshua does not speak even a single word which he could have said in the evangelical text, but he continues to be unpredictable, enigmatic--well, as unpredictable as the artist's behavior, anyway. But how does Jesus talk in Aytmatov's novel? He announces that he wants to remain "an unfading example," he understands the "vulgarization of high ideas"--this is the style and tone of a newspaper editorial. Please do not misunderstand me: I am not asking for either stylization or archaic language. But after all, "an unfading example," and "the vulgarization of high ideas"--this is not the language of modern times. This is the inarticulacy of modern times.

Perhaps we should talk not about the language but about what is expressing itself in the language--the optics. There are the optics of the pedestrian, which I am used to and which will remain mine for as long as I live. There are the optics of the motor tourist, which hurriedly take in the objects rushing by, combining them into a collage. There was a time when any futurist could talk enthusiastically about this new optics as an unprecedented, unexplored, revolutionary capacity; now it is simply a tedious given.

We are standing before a very interesting fact. An unquestionably significant work by an outstanding writer is written in a way which has always been simply impossible for genuine literature. After all, it is impossible to say that the neglect of the essence of a word or the specifics of reality is an element of an intended effect, of an aggressive kind of strategy; there is none of this. Aggression can occur whenever the writer and his reader have a solid sense of the norm, and a challenge is thrown to this norm. But the thing which is ignored here, is being ignored, apparently, not aggressively at all, but indifferently: as a thing which no longer exists for the new optics. I am old-fashioned, and I get an unpleasant feeling from this indifference.

And another complaint from a man who is used to something different. Even if the evangelical topic is completely confiscated for expressing contemporary things--that is, to make from it, as Pasternak once expressed in "Okhrannaya gramota" [Safe Conduct Pass], a writing notebook, one question still remains. Consider an album--a quite frivolous object in comparison with the gospels; but we know that in this album there is some writing by, let's say, Pushkin. And now we are asked to write something as well. I hope that every one of us would refuse. But if, nevertheless, the moral constraints of the situation, an inner compulsion or something unpredictable and irresistible has forced us to write something of our own in the album--imagine what a "shaky" state, as they say, we would be in only to think of doing such a thing! Or take the excellent English pianist Christian Blackshaw; he participated in our contests and played Skryabin brilliantly. When he was in the Skryabin Museum and he was invited to sit down to Skryabin's piano, he stepped back in sheer horror: how could he sit down at that piano! This is an example of a noble feeling of distance. It is easier said than done--a notebook where the writings of Rublev, Rembrandt, Bach have still not dried! It is necessary somehow to collect yourself internally before sitting down and writing something in it...

I have returned again to what I began with: what I said is not in the slightest degree a denial of the novel as a part of our life. Not being a critic, I did not mean to evaluate the novel, to speak about its shortcomings; I was interested not in shortcomings but in symptoms--symptoms of an overall state of culture.

As for the straightforwardness with which the novel speaks about the sore points of our reality, here there can be no two opinions.

G. Gachev. After Sergey Sergeyevich's speech, you would be afraid to open not just an album with writing by Pushkin, but even a book by Pushkin--how could you possibly avoid defiling it with your stupid lack of understanding!... It

means that those "to whom it is given," learned guardians of culture, may have access to its body of literature, approaching it as none other than head-on, while as for the rest--"get away, uninitiated ones!" It is easy, based on "piety" to confine culture to the archive and the museum and exclude it from a living dialogue with new generations, from participation in creativity. Pushkin would have been the first to explode against such a vise: he would be just as curious about what a man would write 100 years later. The word is not an icon and not a mimosa but a friend of the heart and a mind closest to the spirit. There is no era, place, or people without its fair share of the creative spirit: it inspires where it pleases. And without a feeling of being at ease, unfettered, even familiarity--the creative impulse will freeze up. If even in the world of writing we "must not dare to have our own opinion" on all the questions of existence and ideas of culture and to converse about them and with them "in heartfelt simplicity," then where can we?....

I know there is a point of view that everything great in culture has already been created, and for us "later followers" it remains not to create new things but to interpret the old. Not creativity but commentary is our lot. Culture is turned into a mausoleum rather than an active subject of life and history. Yes, the gigantic depth of the beauty and wisdom which has been created will cause the person approaching it to freeze up. Nevertheless, it thirsts to be awakened--like Sleeping Beauty. And we must support, rather than scare away, the artist who, carried away with love, dares to break the crystal coffin, who has the courage to come to nuclear ideas at his own risk and who thinks about "the ultimate questions." For everyone this is necessary and the times thirst for it.... Not to learn canons from the schoolbook by rote, but to restate them "in your own words": to pass them through your own, through our own, understanding and spirit....

Chingiz Aytmatov cannot and should not write with stylization, as does Thomas Mann or Bulgakov. He has a different task. The context of the scenes with Pilate and Jesus in "The Master and Margarita" and in "Executioner's Block" is different. For Bulgakov it is aesthetic: within the satire on modern times and the merry devil's romp [dyavoliada] the only way out is artistic creativity and, for its sake, love. In Aytmatov, the context is ethical: man is called to moral works, to be "the only soldier in the field." The language here is closer to the classical norm, and its characteristic is not its strength, as in the masters of local coloring, but rather the flexible pursuit of artistic-philosophical thought.

S. Averintsev: This rejoinder, which sweeps aside stylization, itself stylizes the essence of the argument to the point of unrecognizability. It never occurred to me to take the approach of Bulgakov or Thomas Mann as a model. I think that all retellings are judged by the measure of the original source and not by the measure of one another. For me, the last word is not the artistry, nor is it aesthetic; the last word is spiritual soberness--that is, the state in which the word tests itself in silence, and the emotional upsurge is correlated with spiritual criteria, not merely mental ones. As for the historical and other realities, I would not breathe a word if it did not seem to me that indifference to concrete detail is a symptom of the loss of the ability to dwell on, meditate upon, and question one's own self. Is this conversation really about museum-like inviolability of culture, about commonplace reverence before it? Incidentally, it's beyond me, what does the

protest against standing before culture head-on really mean, now, in 1986? We all remember that there was a time when outcries in the name of conventional piety, "canons" and "texts," had a fairly threatening sound, and here, at the same time, from my heart I would like to understand Georgiy Dmitreyevich. And now, placing hand on heart, does a surplus of piety and excessive knowledge of "the depth of the beauty created" present an important threat to the creative impulse? There is no way that I can remove, on my own account, the suspicions that I do not take the possibilities of present-day creative work seriously. But if I did not take it seriously, what reason would I have now to discuss one of its results in such a concerned and fault-finding manner? An admirer of ready-made values would think merely: "Vanity of vanities"--and remain unperturbed. Is it really necessary to explain that I look at living literature not from a place above it but more precisely from below it, and that is exactly why I cannot take an indulgent tone? Indulgence presumes precisely a view from above.

As for the writer's right to "dare to have his own opinion," I began today with a defense of precisely that right. But, after all, you can't refuse the reader this right, either.

And, finally, about the language--not just as regards the novel, the question is broader here. It is necessary to look into what cultural property is, no more than what is the necessary condition of correct spiritual work. We were talking about concentrating on the ethical problems--fine. But language has its own ethics and words have their own integrity. There are utterances which are correct, noble, in their meaning--you will not object to anything here--but they are made in language which begins to lose the responsibility immanent to it as language, and because of this their meaning suffers damage. Language is an instrument not only of expression but also of self-verification. It would be terrible to lose this instrument.

A. Khakimov: All right, our opinions differ. Sergey Sergeyevich Averintsev has expressed fairly serious complaints against the novel. But his very participation in today's discussion testifies that Aytmatov's novel is also provoking interest in the circles of high science which Sergey Sergeyevich represents, that the novel may be regarded as a significant cultural event.

In the complex and vivid structure of images of the novel, as participants in the conversation have observed, there are places which evoke contradictory interpretations, there are motifs which do not always clear up, sometimes even muddy the author's design. But, we agree, sometimes even the imperfection of such works provides more food for thought than "successful" books, as Vadim Valerianovich said. And no matter how alluring our exercises about mythological forms may be, the most important thing is to catch the sharp contemporary import of the novel: Aytmatov has hit a sensitive nerve of our times.

V. Kozhinov: I think the author of "Plakha" should be satisfied with the mere fact that his novel provoked such a heated argument as that which broke out between S. S. Averintsev and G. D. Gachev. This argument clearly has not been settled and could scarcely be settled in the near future. But it is necessary, even inevitable. The only thing left to wish for is that the novel of such a popular writer as Chingiz Aytmatov will stimulate such arguments among as wide a group of readers as possible.

S. Averintsev: Ultimately, books are divided not into good and bad ones-- books are divided into necessary ones and those we can get along without. Necessary books are sometimes imperfect, and conversely.

* * *

In analyzing an artistic work it is necessary, obviously, to take a full account of its design and the entire system of devices of depicting. In this sense, the discussion which took place today, especially between G. Gachev and S. Averintsev, is fully justified--that is, it touches on matters which are unquestionably essential for an understanding of the novel. Nevertheless, there is still one important level of meaning in the work from which the discussion departed somewhat in favor of mythological and biblical allusions. "Plakha" is a novel about social evil. How to combat this evil--merely with individual sacrifice, the moral feats of one person acting alone? And where are the social forces which oppose Kochkorbayev and Ober-Kandalov? Don't we form the impression that we are being prompted to fight injustice not in the plane of social clashes, but rather in an appeal to "faith"? Our readers, raised in the traditions of not merely "purely moral" but also socially active literature are sure to ponder these questions.

Incidentally, these are questions for our criticism as well. It has been given an abundant field of activity, a subject which compels reflection and debate, and an artistic text on which the art of analysis can be improved. A settled point of view in this case is possible only as the result of collective efforts of criticism, and we may consider that the foundation of this discussion has been laid.

12255

CSO: 1800/82

CULTURE

LITTLE-KNOWN TALE BY LESKOV PUBLISHED

Moscow LITERATURNAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 3 Oct 86 p 17

[Article by L. Chudnova, candidate of philosophy, Leningrad: "Nikolai Leskov in the Role of Sports Commentator"]

[Text] What didn't the remarkable artist of the word N. S. Leskov write about in the pages of periodicals! He was the first one to begin talking about the unemployment of the raznochintsy intelligentsia and about the crying lack of rights of the "little slaves"--the pupils of trade and vocational institutions. He also wrote about the necessity of clinics for lepers, about the falsification of "sacred" relics by clergymen, about the setting up of public reading-rooms, the state of the tower clock of the Peter and Paul Fortress . . . An enumeration of the subjects of his journalistic writings is very long.

And nevertheless, it is difficult to imagine the great writer in the role of . . . a sports commentator. But the following fact brings on this idea.

In PETERBURGSKAYA GAZETA, in December 1891, No 353, in the column "Sport", which was new for that time, a note was published without the author's signature, whose content and form of presentation involuntarily attract the attention of anyone who is well acquainted with the creative methods and style of Leskov the journalist.

First of all, the title of the note: "Misha and Timosha" is distinguished by its originality. By comparison with the official, businesslike or trite sensational titles of the articles and notes, such a title in the newspapers of the 1880's and 1890's can even be called daring. But Leskov, that's the thing, distinguished himself by such daring. He constantly underscored his adherence to loud and easily remembered titles for literary works and himself had a bent for precisely such titles: "In the Soot and Lamp-Black," "There Will Be No Prima Donna," "Pedlars in the Affairs and Pockets of Other People," "Mischiefs Get Into the Elbow," etc. The title "Misha and Timosha" can be confidently called Leskovian.

In the note it is directly indicated that the author is telling the readers about an event from the life of the Orlovsko-Kromskaya region, which was reported to "one of the Orlov natives" in Petersburg. This again makes one think of Leskov, whose childhood was spent near the town of Kromy and in whose creative work episodes from Kromy are frequently encountered.

The heroes of the note are two brothers from Kromy, who are engaged in truck-farming. They made a bet with a merchant's son, entered into a contest with him, and, thanks to their resourcefulness, won their "bet." Here is the entire incident. However, Leskov becomes apparent in the cunning grin with which it is told, as well as in the clear approval of Misha and Timosha with which the events are commented on. The Leskov who little by little admires the superiority of his illiterate genius Levshi over the throng of the courtiers of the tsar. The Leskov who with delight tells about the talent of Nikita Racheyskov, the painter from the people, or about the stoic conduct of the self-taught mechanic depicted in the tale "The Immortal Golovan."

In a word, Misha and Timosha are Leskovian heroes, and their dispute with the merchant and their triumphal way out from what to everyone seemed to be a hopeless situation is a pet situation of Leskov.

The last paragraph even provides a ground for proposing the authorship of Leskov. The writer repeatedly ridiculed the children's journal IGRUSHECHKA and the Petersburg newspapers for the fact that they had created a sensation around the name of the Cossack Peshkov, who had come on horseback from the Amur Region to Petersburg. In the note, we see the same polemical attack on the hero of the day of the Petersburg press.

Finally, one cannot but call attention to the language of the note. Especially important is the presence of little words already known from other works of Leskov: "Parey" [bet], "Mishu i Timoshu sozheli" [they pitied Misha and Timosha], "prosiyavshiy" [having begun to shine], "bez recheniy" [without expressions], and others. Also important is the colloquial style of the narrative, so characteristic of Leskov the journalist. Not a professional journalist, but an inveterate story-teller is commenting on the unusual case concerning how simple fellows won a bet against a presumptuous, but dull-witted merchant's son.

This is why I consider it possible to ascribe this inimitable "sports commentary" to the celebrated master of the Russian word.

* * *

Misha and Timosha

To one of the Orlov natives in Petersburg they are writing about an original kind of sport. Two brothers, young lads, the sons of a Kromy petty bourgeois, who was leasing a section of landlord land, made a bet with a merchant's son trading in horses that they "will outdistance the best one of his horses on their own feet." The distance from their place "to Kaluga", a total of about 200 verst, was taken as the distance, and the bet was made that "if the merchant goes around the petty bourgeois, then he will have the right to give them a thrashing in the hay-loft or in the bath-house, but if the petty bourgeois will actually outdistance the horse on their feet, then he would give them 100 rubles."

These petty bourgeois were called Misha and Timosha. Their "bet" became known throughout the neighborhood, and people all pitied Misha and Timosha, for they

had no doubt that a man cannot outdistance a horse and that Mishenka and Timoshenko would receive a thrashing by the merchant in the bath-house! But meanwhile God had blessed Misha and Timosha with such resourcefulness and success that they "won their bet with the merchant."

What they did was this: when the hour had come to depart and the merchant's son left on his very reliable horse, harnessed to a light sledge, Misha and Timosha also turned up here with a bast sledge, on which one sat and which the other pulled, moving "on his feet". All willy-nilly burst out laughing at this, but Misha and Timosha travelled without stopping one after the other: Misha pulls, and Timosha sleeps, and then Misha and rides and has a good sleep, and during this time Timosha pulls him forward. And so it goes without stopping--from the morning when they got going--they move all the time. For the merchant's son it was time already to feed the horse, but Misha and Timosha had no need to stop. The merchant spent 3 hours feeding his horse, but Misha and Timosha during this time went already ahead. The horse went around them, and again by night the time came to feed it, but Misha and Timosha do not need to stay overnight--they take their turn sleeping on the sledge, but all the time they themselves keep speeding along. . .

And thus, they say, they had considered and calculated the undertaking well, that they actually "did outdistance the horse" and arrive in Kaluga on their own feet 4 hours before the horse, had some tea at a tavern, bought Kaluga pastry on the run and went back--"to meet the merchant." They met him at the 12th verst [mark] and presented him in the field with the Kaluga pastry, and he handed them 100 rubles without any argument. . . .

These are the sort of steps which our bogatyrs are now taking who have begun to shine after Peshkov! And all of this is being perpetrated in humbleness, without any pompousness, on the quiet--without meetings, without expressions, and even without "the vaseline", which was written about in the journal IGRUSHECHKA.

8970

CSO: 1800/70

CULTURE

THREE POEMS BY GUMILEV PUBLISHED

Moscow KNIZHNOYE OBOZRENIYE in Russian 29 Sep 86 p 9

[Unattributed and untitled introductory note and publication of the text of three poems by Nikolai Gumilev]

[Text] The poems of the excellent Russian poet Nikolai Gumilev have stood the test of time. The influence of his creative work on the development of Soviet poetry is difficult to overestimate. Romantic spirituality, the perfection of poetic form and sensitivity to the breath of time--these are the best traits of Gumilev's poetry, which the poets of subsequent generations added to their arsenal and developed. Anthologies of Russian poetry with the poems of N. Gumilev and editions which include his translations from Villon and Gautier have always attracted the attention of the readers. The jubilee of the author has aroused still greater interest in his creative work: Selections of the poet's poems have been published, as well as materials dedicated to his life and creative work, in the journals NOVYY MIR and OGONEK, and in the weekly LITERATURNAYA ROSSIYA. In the journal ZNAMYA, No 10, the poetry column was devoted to the poetry of N. Gumilev. We thank the editors of the journal for granting us the opportunity of publishing some of the poet's poems.

Nikolai GUMILEV

Memory

And here is all of life! Spinning, singing
Seas, deserts, cities,
Fleetingly glimpsed reflection
Lost forever.

Flames rage, trumpets sound.
And chestnut horses fly,
Then exciting lips
Repeat over and over again about happiness, it seems.

And here again delight and sorrow.
Again, as before, as always,
The sea waves with a grey shoal,
Deserts and cities rise.

When, finally, having risen
From sleep, will I again be I--
A simple Indian, who has dozed off
During a sacred evening by the stream?

(Collection "Koster" [Camp-fire], 1918)

An arrow came flying
Of the blue Eros,
And love died,
And drowsiness came.

In the heart a light trembling
Of the golden hangover,
Golden like rye,
Like her necklace.

Again forest and fields
Opened up to me, as in childhood,
And I became confused
In this sweet legacy.

The light rustle of steps,
And in the white path
Of corpulent may-bugs
Emerald backs.

But in my soul
Alarm was concealed.
Here it is spilled, links,
The call of the spring horn.

Eros watches with a sharp eye,
He has not laid down the quiver. . .
And the torturing mouth
Turns crimson like a wound.

("Stikhotvoreniya. Posmertnyy sbornik"
[Poems. Posthumous Collection].

Octave

Neither the rustles of the midnight distances,
Nor the songs which my mother sang,
We never understood
What was worth understanding.
And, the symbol of mountain grandeur,
Like a kind of mellow behest,
Sublime confused articulation
Is given to you, poet.

("Sbornik "Kolchan" [Collection "Quiver"], 1916).

CULTURE

ZALYGIN NOTES LOSS OF 'CLASSICAL' REALISM

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Sep 86 p 3

[Article by Sergey Zalygin: "Intellect and Literature: Notes of a Writer"]

[Text] Mankind has always struggled with the problem of constructing an indestructible boundary between good and evil, determining who is who: Who in the world is a bearer of good, and who is a villain. But neither theory nor practice, neither philosophy nor theology, neither logic nor sociology, nor even aesthetics, which arose, it seems, precisely for the sake of this quite concrete task, could solve this task. And then its solution was entrusted to literature. And the latter accepted the task, having lifted it on its not so really powerful shoulders.

Russian literature has always fulfilled this task with special zeal and persistence- anxiously and piously, probably already alone because of the fact that for a long time it fulfilled in its homeland the obligations of philosophy and sociology, as well as many other social sciences.

It goes without saying, this task does not remain invariable, in time it acquires ever new nuances, but its essence remains the former. And this essence determines the character of the union between intellect and literature, and the new qualities and means, if one can put it this way, the technical means which modern literature must possess, realizing intellect in the light of the same task.

Here I have in view, above all, the contemporary literary hero, the kind who would possess universality of thought, who would be capable, without the "help" of the author, to weigh all the "pros" and "cons", determining who is who and who for the sake of what. You see, a considerable amount of evil--all sorts of dogmas and horrible violence--too, arises from the affirmation of good. This is why at present a hero of universal thinking is so necessary. Universal, but it seems to me, also realistic, and this is the main thing. But today even this is not enough, and the point is already not only in personages, but global phenomena of the world, events of the kind that are, as it were, even devoid of concrete participants, but attract into their orbit all and everything--all Mankind, all of earthly nature, and, as time goes on, to an ever greater extent also Space.

These phenomena are insistently becoming literary "material". "... The battle goes on, not for the sake of glory, but for the sake of life on earth." A poet said this about the war, about the Great Patriotic War, but since that time the world has been getting hotter and hotter, and here they, these words, already have real relevance directly to art and to creativity as a whole. This question--to be or not to be?--has become by no means abstract and philosophical, but completely practical and everyday.

Yes, the possibilities of our further existence on earth--these are the possibilities of realistic thinking and effective practice, and already here realism ceases to be only a "current" or "direction" of art, but becomes the only possible means of securing the future. You see, it is precisely the shortcoming of realism--in the assessment of the situation of mankind in this world, in the assessment of all phenomena of civilization--which has led us to the present, extremely dangerous situation for man and mankind.

You don't solve things here with fantasy and modern pretentious novelties, with surrealism and even with neorealism--if anyone will help, then only good old classical realism. But, you see, right now there is a very great shortage of it.

The world can be destroyed because it is real and because the nuclear and other means of its destruction are real. So it can be saved only through real and realistic means.

However, here, too, there are no means prepared beforehand for the present, and we will have to dissociate the realism which has led us to the brink of destruction from the realism which can help save us.

All the more this applies to literature. If it acknowledges its participation in this problem of all problems, then it has to carry out such a task. Hegel once talked about prose as about prosaically arranged reality. In our time, the choice between to be and not to be is an "arranging" of that sort, it already does not manage without both its own realism and realism in the assessment of the state of affairs in the world.

It would seem that the Second World War was so terrible and brought such losses and such suffering that hardly anyone could think about its immediate continuation.

It turns out, they did think about it. And "just to make sure," they dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Where Hitler did not succeed and where fascism did not succeed, the "democrats" from across the ocean were completely successful. The lawyers say: If a dispute has dragged on for too long and has become too confused, it is necessary to begin all over again and return to the initial facts. And having returned, it is impossible not to see "who was first," who began. By the logic of things, he who was the first to start must also be the first to end. But... a shortage of realistic thinking, again it. Well, and then, after the atomic bomb there followed the hydrogen, after the hydrogen--the neutron bomb, and now "star wars" is already looming. And all of this is "just to make sure," everything is for the defense of "freedom". The same cult

of strength, only "democratic", surrounded by "democratic" institutions and procedures of every sort.

Another threat is ecological collapse, the destruction of nature. We have divided the general and indivisible organism of nature among a great multitude of fields. There are so many of them that now already no one can count and designate them. Who can resist narrowly-specialized thinking? Society can, there is no one else. Society as a whole and societal intellect as a whole. It, too, needless to say, is not guaranteed against mistakes, but peculiar to it is the concern about the existence of mankind, which is lacking in a separately-taken field with its own and by far not always socially useful tasks.

Only society, protecting itself, is capable of also protecting nature, only it perceives nature as the source of both material and spiritual values, and thus also of its intellect. Already Plato said not without reason that man is intelligent not by himself--that it is his environment which is intelligent, and that we do not so much reflect reality as much as it is reflected in us.

After we have destroyed nature, what will we reflect? Where will we learn sense? There are not enough of ourselves for this--this is what our intellect must master, and following it our literature as well.

Progress can be regulated to some degree, but it cannot be stopped, it is inevitable; but knowledge cannot be inactive, it searches for immediate application to the same world from which it has just come. Knowledge, its continuously growing sum, cannot but influence literature and cannot but attract it and its new heroes into its orbit. (And here we once again become convinced of the inevitability of the universalization of literary heroes--both in the sense of the quantitative increase of their galleries and the expansion of the intellectual range of every one of us).

You see, the point is that a large part of the sciences, and consequently a large part of our intellectual energy, are directed toward the cognition of the surrounding world--of the atom and space above all. But what remains for the share of our self-knowledge?

Let us compare: During the past 1,000 years, during the past century, where did we go in everything that concerns our knowledge of the external world and where in the cognition of ourselves? The distances are incommensurate, the disproportions are so great that involuntarily the question arises: Was it not they which led us to today's problem of "to be or not to be?"

You see, scientists maintain that up to now only some percentage of our thinking grey cerebral matter is thinking, and that the remaining part is in a state of inactivity; evidently it still has not received the appropriate stimulus and task? What task? Perhaps self-knowledge?

Perhaps art, and above all literature, will have to transform the energy of these cells from potential into kinetic energy and to direct it not to the "outside", but to the "inside" of man himself and to the determination, by him, of the tasks of his own existence in a peaceful process of personal and social existence. Literature needs attachment to the process of peace, it needs to escape from the too strongly operating magic of its own result.

You see, no matter what the phenomenon observed by literature, it expects a result, no matter what work of fiction, its result and sum again must be perfectly evident.

Gogol perished when he did not discover the social result of "Dead Souls", and, what is more, his entire creative work; Tolstoi, for the same reason, left Yasnaya Polyana before his death; Turgenev, Dostoevski, Byron, and Schiller were stunned by the fact that they were not able to re-fashion mankind for the better, that they did not achieve the sought-for result, although, it would seem, they understood and appreciated the world as a continuous process, a process devoid of results and conclusions. Now we are searching for the main and general result--the possibility of prolonging the very process of life, and increasingly less and less do we conceive the proper, exclusive result for literature, since literature itself is blended with social creativity and is "life-saving work" and one of the "floating devices" for humanity. In particular, literature and art, as far as they possibly can, must influence science, in order for science to distinguish its own possibilities from the real social necessity. If this difference does not exist and will not be, then our cause is in bad shape.

Science and technology create material objects serially, and the very first copy of a series (whether this concerns some kind of motor, machine or means of transportation) becomes obsolete very quickly and ceases to represent any substantial value to them.

Quite another matter is art. In creating spiritual values, it at the same time cherishes as the apple of its eye the very first sample of its creative work, and the very best, too. The works of art, embodied in objects--in the books of Horace, Ovid, Shakespeare or Tolstoi, in the paintings of Raphael and in the sheets of music of Bach have non-transient value for us.

And thus spiritual culture turns out to have a more developed memory of the subject than material culture.

Evidently, precisely for this reason science and technology, developing apart, as it were, do not return to their spheres and do not remember themselves even in the recent past, not to speak of centuries and millennia, but without such a memory a spiritual culture simply does not exist. There is no culture without a history of culture, and it begins where its history begins.

Movement only in one direction, only forward, sooner or later, leads to what in philosophy is called "bad infinity" and deprives the creative process of the cyclical recurrence which, being so natural for nature, must, if you like, also be transferred to the creative work of man and for our entire life. This task of the memory, and after it--of the cyclical recurrence, and still further--of the historic character of our present, must be fulfilled by art and by the humanities.

Such, evidently, is their destination, such is that meaning of theirs to which we have not attached significance for too long, so long that, it seems, we are already late.

It is well known that the role of every element constituting a work of fiction does not remain constant, but changes. Frequently it changes in the direction of a definite limited nature, and already one can observe the gradual degeneration of such an element as a literary form into a genre form--narrow and general specialization affects literature as well. For example, the hero of the classical short story--of Chekhov, or Bunin, or Tolstoi--was a general literary hero, that is he could act both in a novel and in a story, and in an essay on everyday life. It is not so now. Now the hero of a short story is fit only for a short story, you already do not transplant him into a novel, he is not up to it: You see, he is the hero of a genre. There is no need to talk about the heroes of the detective genre or the science fiction genre--they are from beginning to end tailored to the needs of the genre and, besides this role of theirs, they evidently do not know anything.

No, literature must not be subjected to the very process of narrow specialization against which it takes a stance. And the reader also wants to receive literature in the form of a short story, a tale, and a novel, and not a short story, a tale, and a novel with some of the signs of literature.

Another question is about the role of the subject and event in modern fiction.

Here we have grown accustomed to the fact that the event unfolds not so much by itself as in accordance with the absolute will of the author--it performs an auxiliary role of one sort or another in the system of arguments of the author's thought and position. Of course, to free the event entirely from this role is impossible, but to grant it relatively great freedom is already possible and necessary. It does not lose in its independence, but it acquires still greater convincingness and demonstrative power. Before helping the author, the event must disturb him, put him into a difficult position, both before the heroes of his work and before the readers. The reader is not indifferent to how the author copes with the resistance of the event and how the author's intellect is manifested in this. He does not need to play at give-away. All the more so because the more remote, the more the facts become which speak for themselves. All the more so because the reader's own experience also becomes more, he now and with respect to the events knows what is what.

A servile-subordinate and purely secondary role of the event in fiction discredits the merit of literature as well as our intellect as a whole.

Or--a still more general question--about the novel as such. Has it had its day or not? I think that not a single genre of literature or art in general can create such a broad realistic picture of life as the novel. But without realism we today--but again and again--where?

The realistic novel is a great support for modern realism in general. Realism as such is still greater support for the novel.

And what can be more for literature than such interpenetration, or, as it is nowadays accepted to say, such a connection with life?

And in general--hence, from realism, results also the union between literature and the intellect. In general, as has been said once, literature must increase the power of life. Increase with the help of what? Evidently with the help of the modern intellect.

CULTURE

UZBEK TERMINOLOGY CENTER FORMED

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek on 15 May 1986 carries on page 3 a 700-word article by Gh. Abdurahmonov, corresponding member of the Uzbek SSR Academy of Sciences, entitled "Problems of Terminology" in which he points out that the lack of a single center has made it difficult to follow principles and criteria for selecting terms and compiling Uzbek terminological dictionaries. An interagency commission has been formed under the republic Academy of Sciences to coordinate research in this field, publish materials for discussion, and publish terminological dictionaries. Its publishing organ Terminkom will release a quarterly bulletin. Terms from every field used in textbooks, manuals, articles, monographs, and collective volumes should be approved first by Terminkom.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES TASHKENT FILM FESTIVAL

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek on 20 May 1986 carries on page 3 a 1,300-word article by S.U. Sultanova, deputy chairman of the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers and chairperson of the organizational committee of the Ninth International Film Festival of Asian, African, and Latin American Countries, entitled "For Comparative Purposes" in which she discusses the substance of the festival held in Tashkent from 20 to 30 May. The number of countries expressing a wish to attend surpassed 100, and included India, Japan, Mexico, France, Italy, West Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Canada, the United States, and West Berlin, as well as new guests like Papua-New Guinea, the Oman Sultanate, and Samolia. Organizations such as the African National Congress, Palestinian Liberation Organization, the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front, and patriotic forces of Chile were also represented. Participants repeatedly stressed the democratic nature of the festival, which has no competitions or awards and which provides a forum for films that cannot be shown elsewhere. Chief among the themes of many films were the establishment of progressive ideas; the fight against imperialism, racism, neocolonialism, and national discrimination; conditions for youth and women; and social changes in developing countries. Under the slogan "For peace, social progress, and freedom of peoples," the festival gave participants an opportunity to become familiar with the achievements of Uzbek workers and the Uzbek republic as a shining example of the triumph of the party's Leninist nationality policy.

UZBEK, VIETNAMESE WRITERS MEET IN TASHKENT

[Editorial Report] Tashkent OZBEKISTON ADABIYOTI VA SANATI in Uzbek on 30 May 1986 carries on page 7 a 200-word item entitled "Cooperation With Vietnamese Authors" which reports that on 26 May a meeting with Vietnamese writers and publishers was held at the Uzbek Writers Union. The group was headed by poet, publisher, and translator Thai Ba Tan, and included official of the Vietnamese Writers Union Dao Kim Hoa, editor of the newspaper LITERATURE AND ART Dang Bai, and translator of Soviet literature, publisher, and architect Hoang Kiu Fe. They shared ideas on the possibility of publishing more Uzbek Soviet literature in Vietnam. Asqad Mukhtor, deputy chairman of the Uzbek Writers Union, outlined current Uzbek literary activities. Poet N. Strizhkov, literary critic I. Chafurov, and union official Sh. Vahobov also took part in the session.

RESTORATION OF UZBEK MONUMENTS DISCUSSED

[Editorial Report] Tashkent OZBEKISTON ADABIYOTI VA SANATI in Uzbek on 20 June 1986 carries on page 6 a 1,100-word interview with Iskandar Azimov, deputy chairman of the Uzbek Society for the Preservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments, entitled "The Cultural Heritage Needs Help" in which he comments on problems in restoration work in conjunction with the society's Fifth Congress. He notes that because bourgeois ideologues heap slander on the Soviet system and attempt to intensify nationalist feelings it is especially important to demonstrate the superiorities of socialism and intensify atheist propaganda. In particular, he stresses that the restoration of monuments used for religious purposes must be approached from a deeply atheistic point-of-view. As an example of abuse Azimov notes that religious ceremonies were being conducted at the Zangiata complex in Tashkent Oblast despite the presence of a branch of the republic Scientific Atheism Organization on the grounds of the complex. Until the society revealed this fact in the press, Kalin Rayon and Tashkent Oblast officials had closed their eyes to the situation. Other problems with monument preservation include the sometimes deliberate destruction of monuments, the slow pace of restoration work, and interagency conflicts that contribute to the poor use of restored monuments. Some restored pieces are also seen to decay rapidly, in part due to the fact that only a handful of the 1,000 restorers attached to the Memor Scientific Restoration and Production Union know the ancient traditions. Most have lost the ancient decorative styles and use ordinary paint and materials. Azimov cites the Khudoyorkhon Palace in Kokand and the Abdulqosim Medresse in Tashkent as two examples of this problem. The deputy chairman also observed preference for "decorative" restoration, especially in Samarkand. He criticizes the work on the Bibikhonim Medresse and states that, while it is almost finished, it is not a faithful restoration of the historical monument. Azimov urges a thorough review of the methods and directions of restoration work.

UZBEKS HOLD ROUNDTABLE ON LITERATURE TRANSLATION

[Editorial Report] Tashkent OZBEKISTON ADABIYOTI VA SANATI in Uzbek on 22 August 1986 carries on page 3 a 4,400-word roundtable entitled "Golden Bridge" in which writers and publishers comment on shortcomings in translation work. Asqad Mukhtor confirmed that many translations are of poor quality and urged that a translation office be formed under the Uzbek SSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade to supervise translations and train cadres. Vahob Rozimatov objected that Uzbekistan is among the leading republics in the publication of literary translations and has made many positive steps in this field in the last 35 years. Unfortunately, nepotism, greed, and irresponsibility are widespread so that translations by ignorant, hackneyed dilettantes have been printed in large print-runs. Shavkat Rahmon complained that the Russian editors of the journal ZVEZDA VOSTOKA have forgotten that one of their main tasks is the propagation of Uzbek literature. Khurshid Davron complained that great poets like Whitman, Brecht, and Neruda, and great authors like Orhan Kemal, Joyce, Borges, and Faulkner, as well as Soviet authors like Akhmatova, Pasternak, Voznesenskiy, and Vatsietis, have not been translated into Uzbek. Nizom Komilov noted that the Writer's Union translation council discusses problems and reaches decisions at every meeting, though not a single decision has ever become a reality because the translator and his work have always been viewed as trivial or secondary. Hasan Torabekov asserted that Uzbekistan has fallen to last place in the publication of literary works, because publishing houses experience great difficulty in finding a suitable translator. Moreover, the Writers Union has not established a single award for translation. Rano Azimova pointed out that over 100 translations of literary works are published in the republic each year, but most are poor and the others are mediocre. Moreover, publishing houses do not choose the best Uzbek works for translation into Russian. For example, Sovetskiy Pisatel Publishing House this year plans to publish poetry collections by Olmas Jamol and Okhunjon Hakimov, who in Azimova's opinion do not represent the best in modern Uzbek poetry. Other participants confirmed the poor quality of translations and the shortcomings permitted by publishing houses.

EXPANSION OF CLASSICAL UZBEK STUDIES URGED

[Editorial Report] Tashkent OZBEKISTON ADABIYOTI VA SANATI in Uzbek on 29 August 1986 carries on page 5 a 500-word article by Aftondil Erkinov entitled "Today's Demands" in which he notes that a number of problems face the group for training specialists in Uzbek classical literature which was formed recently in the Department of Uzbek Philology of Tashkent State University. A deep understanding of classical literature requires a knowledge of Persian and Arabic traditions, areas in which teachers of Classical Uzbek are currently weak. Those in the classical group take the department's course on Arabic script and then a special course on Uzbek text, which prepares them to read manuscripts. Scientific aspects of text

analysis are given less attention, because of the time involved in this preparation; the situation is made worse by the lack of a suitable manual on the text analysis. These problems could be resolved by making instruction in the teaching of Classical Uzbek part of the department's curriculum, and by producing a scientific manual on text analysis.

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CSO: 1830/149

CULTURE

NEW LITHUANIAN GRAMMAR BOOK PUBLISHED

[Editorial Report] Vilnius SOVetskaya Litva in Russian 25 Nov 86 carries on page 2 a 500-word review by A. Paulauskene of a new Russian language Lithuanian grammar book titled "Grammatika litovskogo yazyka" (Mokslas, 1985). The one-volume work, which is edited by V. Ambrazas, a doctor of philology, "gives a systematic description of the phonology, morphology, and syntax of the contemporary Lithuanian literary language," a language which stands "in a close genetic relationship" with the other Slavic languages. The book is intended to serve as a theoretical basis for new practical grammars and textbooks which will be used in Lithuanian high schools and colleges. /6662

CSO: 1800/161

SOCIAL ISSUES

GEORGIAN PROCURATOR DISCUSSES RESULTS OF ANTICRIME BATTLE

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA ZAKONNOST in Russian No 9, Sep 86 (signed to press 21 Aug 86) pp 9-12

[Article by V. Razmadze, GSSR procurator: "Rightmindedness and Consistency"]

[Text] The GSSR procurator's office is taking practical measures to improve the organization of its work, to restructure the style and methods of its leadership and its control over the work done by its subordinate sections.

The republic's war against crime has become more aggressive and better organized. This has been achieved largely as the result of improvements in the interaction and coordination of the work done with internal affairs agencies, justice agencies, with the courts, and with people's control committees. The part played by local Soviets of People's Deputies, directors of ministries, departments and labor collectives has been increased with regard to the prevention of infringements of the law.

In large part thanks to the above, more instances of theft of socialist property, bribery and speculation have been uncovered. We have succeeded in reducing the number of such grave offences as premeditated murder, rape, robbery, theft of personal property, juvenile crimes etc. The number of crimes solved has increased, and this trend has kept its momentum in the course of this year as well.

Measures have been taken right on schedule to enhance our day-to-day operational situation. Thus at staff meetings we have been listening to reports from the chief of the investigative administration, the procurator of the Abkhaz ASSR, we have given summaries of the situation in the republic as a whole, regarding our struggle and the measures we have taken to solve such crimes as premeditated murder, and we have activated the efforts of our constantly operating investigation operations groups.

It is commonly known that when organizing preventive measures for legal offences, there is a concomitant need for consistent work in the study and elimination of the immediate causes and conditions conducive to the commission of crimes. The value of this has been underestimated in a number of places. In the Tsalen-dzhikhskiy Rayon, for example, no steps were taken to prevent domestic family squabbles, parasitism or drunkenness. These conflicts between individual citi-

zens and individual families have been going on for years. Some crimes have been engendered by others. Arsons, stemming from a feud, were committed, which destroyed stands of fruit trees and vineyards, and reprisals were inflicted. Information about this was sent to the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee. The matter was discussed at an extraordinary plenum of the Tsalendzhikhskiy Rayon party committee. The new leadership of the rayon procurator's office is participating actively in measures designed to prevent similar conflicts.

The republican procurator's office is taking steps to intensify the struggle against covered-up crimes. Last year several militia employees were held criminally responsible for concealing crimes from state records, and were given disciplinary punishment.

The responsibility of the procurators has been increased as well. T. Metreveli, procurator of the Telavskiy Rayon, was relieved of his position for failing to provide supervision over the prompt registration, recording and settlement of statements and reports of crimes. The procurator of the Chokhataurskiy Rayon, V. Nikolaishvili not only failed to provide the compulsory supervision of the legality of registrations and authorizations in the ROVD [Rayon Department of Internal Affairs] of statements and reports of crimes, but helped to conceal them as well. With his consent, six months passed without his having called Samkharadze to account or having instituted proceedings against him for murder. So the crime remained undetected. V. Nikolaishvili was relieved from his position for unsatisfactory work.

The position of republican procurator is uncompromising. And procurators will henceforth be punished severely for showing passivity in the suppression of the antistate practice of covering up crimes.

In demanding that the war against criminality be stepped up, we are trying to come to a point of strict observation of socialist legality. In executing Order No 2, of 7 Jan 1986, of the USSR General Procurator, subordinates began to be treated more strictly. Every case of unlawful detention, arrest or of calling people to criminal account will be considered by us as an extraordinary event. A principled evaluation was given, for example, to the unlawful actions of Z. Machitidze, procurator of the city of Tskhaltubo, who was relieved of his post, The procurator of the South Osetian Autonomous Oblast, P. Gal'koyev, was punished, and V. Vardaya, procurator of the Abkhaz ASSR, has attracted attention for his lack of principle and liberalism.

We want the procurator's supervision to forestall violations of the law, not to seem like a belated reaction to them.

We attach a great deal of importance to the forestalling of violations of the law in the activities of internal affairs agencies, as we do to the prevention of cases of the abuse and exceeding of authority. Alas, irregular people have not yet become extinct among those who serve the law. E. Kherkhadze, who is department chief of the Samtredskiy Mechanized Motor Subdivision of GAI [State Motor Vehicle Inspection] had insufficient grounds when he detained citizen A., who had driven away from the BAM [Baykal-Amur Mainline] railroad on holiday. The items which had been unlawfully taken from him, and which were intended as

gifts for his close relatives, turned out later to be in the possession of the members of Lieutenant of the Militia Kherkhadze's family. He was held criminally responsible for this, and was convicted.

The procurator's supervision is also playing a growing role in the prevention of unlawful searches for clues, unlawful seizures and in protecting the rights of our citizens.

Within the republic, the struggle with misappropriations, bribery and speculation still continues to be an urgent problem. At times, people try to explain that some increase in this class of registered crimes are due only to the battle against them having been activated, and that it can hardly be thought of as correct. This most likely makes a comment on the fact that the mechanism for preventing violations of the law is not working. Local BKhSS [Struggle Against Misappropriation of Socialist Property and Speculation] organs have not organized the work of covering the channels for misappropriations or for screening those who accept bribes and speculators.

The CPSU Central Committee, in its decree "Measures to Step Up the War On Unearned Incomes", required that the union republic Communist Party central committees, kray committees, obkoms, distric party committees, gorkoms and raykoms, and primary party organizations increase their demands that officials ensure the safekeeping of public property from plunder and damage, and that they eliminate conditions which give rise to mismanagement, bribery, speculation, blackmail and extortion. We are presently using these directives for guidance as we organize our struggle against these crimes.

Measures for the compensation of damages make up an integral part of the struggle against embezzlement. This effort has been improved somewhat at present, as about half the damages caused by misappropriations are paid back. However, due to omissions in the organizing of enquiries in a number of procurators' offices (the Tetrtskaroyfskiy and Gardabanskiy rayons, the city of Tbilisi, the South Osetian Autonomous Oblast and the Transcaucasus Transport Procurator's Office), only a very small portion of damages has been recovered.

In recent years, civil law means for recovering damages have been substantially activated. In 1985, procurators instigated actions amounting to over R3.7 million, some 3-fold greater than for 1980. However, the inactivity of some procurators has been concealed behind the median indicators. For example, the procurators in the Adzhar ASSR and the Abkhaz ASSR have been insufficiently active.

We attach a great deal of importance to the results of checks on the practice of recovering damages. We discuss them during board meetings. We are directing procurators at increasing the exactingness of ministry and 'epartment leaders, enterprises and juridical services to protect public property, and to look after the status of damage recovery. For example, the management of the Kvirijskiy Packing Plant in the Kobuletskiy Rayon wrote off 24 t of spoiled mandarin oranges at a cost of R22,000, without having looked into the causes of the spoilage or having sought out the guilty parties. This episode is now being investigated. There are many such examples.

The Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party are giving their unremitting attention to the struggle with negative occurrences. The measures being taken by the republic's procurator's office always find understanding and support. Thanks to this, we were successful in mobilizing the labor collectives and public opinion against those who plunder public property, the bribe-takers and intriguers and those persons who live on unearned incomes.

CPSU Central Committee directives on increasing the liability of communists and managers for derelictions in their work and misuses are being executed.

At the 27th Georgian Communist Party Congress, held in January of this year the republican procurator informed the delegates of the results of a criminal affairs investigation of the bribery of certain responsible workers. What sort of party policy, specifically, could the former first secretaries of the Signakhskiy and Makharadzevskiy rayon party committees, Buchukuri and Teneyshvili, have been conducting, occupying themselves as they did with extortion and bribery? Teneyshvili imposed a "tax" on the managers of tea factories and other officials, taking massive bribes. And a certain Chitiya "redeemed" a debt for a militia department chief for a whopping sum. Former first secretaries of the Telavskiy and Akhmetskiy party raykoms Kobaidze and Batlashvili patronized plunderers, smart dealers and schemers, involving themselves in protectionism.

Former chairman of the republic's State Committee for the Provision of Oil Products A. Ubiriya became a bribery organizer. And the republic's former minister of culture T. Badurashvili, kept himself busy with machinations and swindles.

The unlawful acts of former secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee S. Khabeishvili caused an even greater degree of moral damage. In return for promotions to dominant positions and for patronage, he repeatedly took huge bribes from a number of party workers, republican department executives and municipal organizations.

All of them are now "former" officeholders, but what palpable losses they managed to suffer, while holding such responsible posts!

N. Tsikarashvili, chief of the Tbilisi gorispolkom kolkhoz trade association and N. Sichinava, deputy chief of the Mintorg [Ministry of Trade] trade organizations administration, and others as well, used their official positions to gain entry to the practice of bribery and to rake in unearned incomes.

An investigation is underway as well into other, particularly large-scale cases of misappropriation, of write-ups, and of bribery, including within the agro-industrial complex. Write-ups, and the concomitant abuses in the procurement of sweetbriar, grapes, potatoes and other products have been found to be particularly widespread in the Akhalitsikhskiy, Akhmetskiy, Dushetskiy, Kvarelskiy, Sagared-zhoyskiy, Tianetskiy, Tsalkskiy, Tskhakayevskiy and other rayons.

In the course of the investigation, serious gaps have been exposed in the execution of the procurator's supervision. The procurators of a number of rural areas have displayed an almost total lack of interest in the nature of the procurement

plans, or the manner in which they are fulfilled. In deciding against starting a dispute with the local directors, they acted in an unprincipled fashion, and failing to take measures to suppress these scandalous cases of the embezzlement of state property. If the procurators were on top of the situation, there wouldn't be thefts totalling in the millions. Some procurators have been relieved of their duties, and we are henceforth going to rid ourselves of any more such people.

But it is not only procurators who are guilty in this affair. Write-ups and misappropriations have taken place in a number of cases with the participation of individual party and soviet workers, and agroindustrial directors. For example, P. Sariyev, director of the Tsalkskiy Rayon's Gruzselkhozzagotovka [Georgian Agricultural Procurement] Association, with the connivance of individual rayon directors set up, for 10 days, the official registration of fictitious purchasing documents, which showed that over 5,000 t of potatoes had been purchased from the population. The potatoes were then sold through the republic's state institutions. Hundreds of thousands of rubles were stolen by this method.

Taking its guidance from the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, the Georgian Procurator's Office is on the way toward a resolute restructuring of all fields of the procurator's activity, and general supervision is the first in line. We hope to achieve a state wherein general supervisory activities are not seen as a number of submitted suggestions and protests, but as something having economic utility, something which will strengthen the law. We require that procurators uphold the interests of the state, step up the part played by legal means in developing the economy and in making restitution of damages caused by specific guilty parties.

The lancepoint of procurator's supervision has been aimed at strengthening state discipline. The number of enterprises failing to fulfill their delivery plans has been markedly reduced. The total of penalty fines paid, and losses incurred because of violations of contractual conditions was reduced by half for 1985 compared to 1983. The number of enterprises putting up with write-ups is dwindling.

This principled position and the consistency of these measures is producing positive results. Thus, the Republican Procurator's Office has repeatedly carried out checks on the status of observation of state discipline within the Minavtotrans [Ministry of Motor Transport] system. Reasoned proposals have been introduced in cases where the law has been violated, party Soviet organs have been informed, and the guilty have been called to account.

Within the ministry, they have begun to treat the subject of state accountability more strictly, more frequently applying material sanctions against waste and overexpenditure of fuels and lubricants. As a result, 1985 saw savings of over 12,000 t of gasoline, and over a 4-fold reduction in violations of state discipline.

We are, however, dissatisfied by and large with the effectiveness of this effort. The measures to reorganize the procurator's office have not always been effective, nor have they produced needed results. As a result of negligent administration, in the republic's national economy, the cost of unneeded equipment has risen above R60 million.

The practice of padding is still widespread, in the tea industry for example. Unauthorized add-ons have, in recent years, become a normal occurrence, and they have been accompanied by misappropriations and other violations of state discipline, as well as a worsening in the quality of the produced output. Write-ups totalling over R20 million and particularly huge misappropriations have been uncovered in the Gegechkori Tea Production Association. G. Kalandiya, the association's general director, and K. Dzadzamiya, director of the Bandzisskiy Tea Plant have been arrested, and the circumstances of their crimes are being investigated.

Write-ups, the production of defective goods and violations of delivery obligations have also been uncovered at other tea-processing enterprises. The staff of the republic's Procurator's office have turned the attentions of the procurators to the need for strengthening their supervision of the protection of socialist property in the tea industry, and to the strengthening of state discipline. We have also demanded that Goskomchayprom [State Tea Industry Committee] (which has now been merged with Goskomagroprom) leadership strengthen the departmental supervision and bringing to order of their system. However, their measures have turned out to be mere formalities. The CC CP of Georgia recently examined the state of affairs in the tea industry. Former Goskomchayprom chairman E. Malazoniya and his deputy A. Danduridze have been excluded from CPSU ranks and have been relieved of their positions stemming from their systematic swindling of the state, unauthorized write-ups and other violations of the law.

Write-ups are also widespread in other sectors of the national economy. Thus, D. Gelenidze, chief of the Kutaisi Domestic Services Administration, A. Dzhidzhavadze, general director of the Kavkaztransformator Production Association, G. Churukhadze, director of the Samtrediya Construction Materials Combine, V. Pukhayev, chairman of the Tskhinvalskiy Inter-Economic Feed Procurement Association and others have been convicted for this crime. The Procurator's office in Kutaisi is investigating criminal cases of write-ups totalling R11 million in a motor vehicle plant and R3 million in a cloth combine.

A considerable amount of damage has been caused by spoilage and shortages of citrus products. For five years in the Adzharselkhozzagotovka System, over R30 million in debts, losses stemming from spoilage, short supplies and misappropriations were written up. This is why yearly losses come to about R10 million in just two of the Adzhar ASSR's rayons.

The organs of this autonomous republic's office turned out not to be equal to the situation and did not, until the very end, investigate the causes of the violations which had been allowed to occur, and failed to make principled decisions, even about cases of flagrant abuse. The procurator's office has initiated criminal proceedings in cases of shortages and spoilage of citrus fruits and unauthorized write-ups of debts. The office's investigative section is carrying out an investigation.

The quality of produced output is causing serious concern. Within the republic, yearly losses stemming from defective amount to over R6 million. A number of enterprises, particularly those producing goods for popular consumption, and which merely transfer valuable raw materials, have been overstocking warehouses,

depots and stores with goods not needed within the normal demand. The state has suffered tremendous losses because of the systematic manufacture of low-quality products by the "Soviet Georgia" Worsted-Cloth Association in Tbilisi, the Sukhumi Leather Shoe Combine, the Kutaisi Production Sewing Association et al.

Low-quality output is being produced by Minlegprom [Ministry of Light Industry], Minmestprom [Ministry of Local Industry] and Minpromstroymaterialov [Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry]. For example, several million rubles' worth of useless semimanufactures and finished products have been written off in recent years in the Isani Shoe Association. Hundreds of thousands of rubles' have been written off "in passing" for good quality merchandise which was stolen. But these machinations have been unmasked, and an investigation is underway.

In order to eradicate the production of defective goods, economic measures are needed first of all. However, bad workers still feel no sense of responsibility for a neglectful attitude to their work. In 214 cases, procurators recovered only R111,000, with R7,500 being voluntarily paid back. The role of the criminal law struggle is inadequate. Actions are not always initiated in cases of the criminal production of defective goods, even when grounds exist.

No efficient system for detecting and promptly stopping cases of poor-quality products has yet been worked out in the republic.

In executing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, we have defined the tasks for the strengthening of supervision related to management with consideration for the actual state of affairs. We are taking measures for the more complete utilization of all the means at our disposal, including criminal-legal means, so as to achieve real results in this critical state affair.

The human factor is of particular importance to the successful resolution of the problems facing the agencies of the procurators' offices. We have sharply increased the exactingness required of our personnel, and are integrating organs of the procurators' offices and capable people, and are promoting those who are filled with initiative and right-mindedness to positions of leadership.

It is gratifying that many people have been transferred to responsible party and soviet work from the reserves of the republic's procurators' offices: N. Shoshiashvili, deputy chief of the investigation administration has been moved to the position of deputy head of the Department of Administrative Agencies of the CC CP of Georgia, A. Dautashvili, V. Mindiashvili and P. Gvelesiani have been made instructors in this department, Z. Tushchuri, procurator of the Gurdzhaanskiy Rayon has been elected ispolkom chairman and the soon-to-be first secretary of the Tianetskiy Raykom CC of Georgia, and procurator of the Tsalkski Rayon--F. Chitlov--has been appointed rayispolkom chairman. R. Giligashvili, who is deputy chief of the investigation administration, was recently promoted to the position of deputy procurator of the republic.

In the light of the new requirements, a restructuring is underway on the work of M. Kvinikadze, procurator of the Mtskhetskiy Rayon, A. Budagashvili, procurator of the Signakhiy Rayon, N. Gabrichidze, procurator of Tbilisi's Pervomayskiy Rayon, A. Lomidze, procurator of the city of Rustavi, V. Klyukovski, city

of Batumi's Transportation procurator, the young specialists E. Svanidze, A. Mirianashvili and L. Gzirishvili. And the procurators of the Samtredskiy Rayon D. Imnaishvili and the Gurdzhaanskiy Rayon I. Kobiashvili were given high state awards.

There are also, however, cases of the approach to personnel selection not having been very well thought out. I. Baliauri, who is not known to have a great deal of initiative, was appointed to the position of procurator of Kutaisi's Avtozavodskiy Rayon. He made a poor showing in this position, and was transferred to the republican procurator's staff, where he "roamed" from department to department. That is why the appointment of I. Baliauri to the position of procurator of the Tianetskiy Rayon was a serious mistake. He displayed impotence and ended up under the influence of local organs. Within the rayon, procurator's supervision was practically nonexistent, the war against write-ups and misappropriations came to nought and crimes were covered up. The upshot was that I. Baliauri was once again removed from the office of rayon procurator.

Many shortcomings and mistakes stem from the slipshod organization of work, setting up of supervision and checks on its execution. The results of checks on the procurators' offices in the Vanskiy and Ordzhonikidzevskiy (rural) rayons, the Leninskiy Rayon of the city of Kutaisi, the city of Sukhumi and in the Kobuletskiy Rayon attested to the serious defects in the supervision of the work done by subordinate procurators.

U. Kobiashvili, chief of the department of supervision of criminal affairs in the courts of the Republic Procurator's Office, was dismissed for gaps in the organization of work, formalism and a vicious style of leadership. Z. Kvirkveliya, chief of an investigation administration was punished by administrative order, and the procurators of the Adzhar ASSR, the Abkhaz ASSR, the South Osetian Autonomous Oblast and the city of Kutaisi were very forcefully shown the need to improve their work.

Other measures are being taken to eliminate shortcomings to improve the organization of work all the way from the superior procurators down to the subordinate links and to improve the efficiency of the procurator's supervision.

The organs of the procurator's office have many other problems as well. The level of organization is still too low, as is the level of consistency with regard to the battle with parasites, drunkards and recidivists. The steady nature of violations of the law are causing concern, as are the negative occurrences going on in the corrective labor institutions and the serious flaws in the organization of criminal detection. Improvements are needed in the interaction of the supervisory agencies, and in the coordination of the actions of the law-protecting organs.

At the same time, we see the prospective resolution of these problems, and feel the full depth of our responsibility for carrying out the tasks put forward by the 27th CPSU Congress, of strengthening Socialist law as well as law and order.

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SOCIAL ISSUES

MOSCOW SCHOLAR ON STATUS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE TEACHING

PM181051 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 12 Nov 86 First Edition p 1

["Specialist's Opinion" by Doctor of Philosophical Sciences Professor G. Arefyeva, chief of the Philosophy Department at the Moscow Power Industry Institute: "The Social Scientist's Prestige"]

[Text] I experienced mixed feelings when I attended the all-union conference of chiefs of social sciences departments. On the one hand, there was a feeling of enormous relief and hope. At long last it had been said directly, frankly, and publicly that boredom, bureaucracy, and formalism in the teaching of social sciences are not to be tolerated, and ways were mapped out to resolutely make VUZ social sciences address actual practice and life. On the other hand, I and many of my colleagues felt and still do feel a sense of shame. After all, we are also to blame for the fact that our classes, as M.S. Gorbachev said, "kill the living soul and all the attractiveness of the emotional intellectuality of Marxism-Leninism...." Why has this happened? This is what I would like to talk about.

Let me begin by stating a bitter truth: The prestige of VUZ social scientists has declined in the last 10-15 years. Gradually and somehow unnoticed, teachers who are real educators started disappearing from higher education and a firm foothold was gained by mediocre lecturers who teach students not to think but to memorize, not to seek the truth but to learn it by heart, not to conduct research in the laboratory of revolutionary Marxist-Leninist thinking but, at best, to abstract quotations for future tests and examinations. I somehow cannot recall any recent instances of students "packing" the lectures of a social scientist and making a special effort to hear his lectures. And yet this used to happen, it did! I recall how, when I was a student and later postgraduate student and young lecturer, we rushed quite voluntarily (we found the time, too!) to hear lectures by Asmus or Chesnokov, eager to get there as early as possible so we could find a seat in the auditorium. This was because they were vivid, talented, and civic-minded. Because their lectures bore the imprint of an extraordinary personality intolerant of stereotypes.

Of course, formalism in higher education did not emerge spontaneously from a vacuum--it was, so to speak, an offspring of the divergence of theory from life, from its urgent problems, from its real dialectics. The gap between

words and deeds, whose essence was resolutely exposed by the 27th CPSU Congress, was bound to affect the teaching of social sciences. As a result of this gap, the analysis of contemporary social processes, which are most complex and contradictory, began to give way to scholastic analysis of categories, endless clarification of terms, their systematization, and so on. And the link between the content of the study process and life was at best purely a matter of illustration, in other words largely formal.

What in fact are the criteria used today to evaluate VUZ lecturers' work? It is an open secret that more often than not these criteria are purely formal. The steady and unchecked rise in average grades, the vast numbers of papers written by students, the number of conferences held, and so on and so forth have gradually become the main indicator of the standard of a lecturer's work. The pursuit of numbers has turned into a goal in itself and has overshadowed the main meaning of our activity--to train and educate future specialists. Quantitative indicators have clashed with the quality of work.

The procedure for analyzing the results of competition between VUZ departments is typical in this respect. Living work is replaced by days of exhausting paper-shuffling. Visits to hostels, conferences, reports, open lectures, new texts of lectures, and so on and so forth are scrupulously counted up. Standard procedure is that all this must without fail be recorded in notebooks and then counted up according to a points scale. You don't feel like doing it, but you concentrate on the calculations so that others won't "miscalculate." You don't feel like doing it, but you concentrate on the calculations so that others won't "miscalculate." You can imagine how this paper nightmare "helps" improve a departmental collective's work.

And how about lecture inspections! Once upon a time members of the inspection commissions would attend lectures, speak at length with lecturers, and refer to documents only when necessary. Now everything is exactly the opposite. They thoroughly study the documents and, if time permits, they talk with lecturers and call in on one of two lectures. There is even a term for it: Selective inspection. The result of all this is that the chief of department and his deputies waste a lot of time and energy on paperwork. but even that is not the main point. The main trouble is that, under these circumstances, a lecturer is forced to aim not for quality in teaching but for formal indicators--figures, percentages, points.

Lecturers are shackled by excessive stage-management and a lack of independence. They are rigorously tied to the program and the calendar plan and are deprived of elementary opportunities to seek and experiment. The so-called study-methodological complexes, where absolutely everything is regulated by the minute, are the apotheosis of this bureaucratic stage-management and formalism.

Is it possible to shape a vivid individuality under these conditions? It is possible, but only despite them and in the process of struggle against them. More often than not, the outcome is the universal reduction of lecturers to mediocrity. The mass production of instructions and plans designed for everybody makes us lose sight of the main point--the creative work which is so necessary in the civic education of future specialists.

It is no accident that these very same metastases of formalism have also penetrated other spheres of VUZ life, including the students' komsomol, where the pursuit of mere quantity of measures, numbers of members, and so on and so forth has been going on for a long time now. And here is the result: According to data from our sociology laboratory, only one-third of students show any interest in social work.

The 27th Party Congress cleared the way for decisive and urgent transformations in our society. Certain promising changes have also occurred in the activity of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education. The harmful study-methodology complexes have been abolished, and ministry workers are now showing greater attention to and interest in the experience of departments and are studying lecturers' proposals. Even so, the struggle against formalism has only just begun and it is still very much alive and thriving. Evidence of this can be seen in the transformation of interviews with university entrants into form-filling and point-counting sessions. I know the despondency to which this system has driven the lecturers, let alone the university entrants who find themselves captives of numbers as soon as they cross the institute's threshold.

Yes, formalism is thriving. In my view, in order to tackle it is necessary to take a simple but very important and decisive step--to come face to face with the students. Their interests, their attention, their evaluations--this is what must become the criterion of our teaching and educational work.

I know that there are quite a few lecturers who perceive this as sedition, as undermining their prestige. But they are, as a rule, poor workers and we cannot emulate them. As far as the thinking, questing lecturer is concerned, such "feedback" is extremely important for him. It is equally important for students. They must see that their opinion is valued, that they are not just consumers of predigested knowledge but participants in the quest for truth. It seems to me that students' opinion must, without fail, be taken into account in the certification of lecturers. Do the future specialists want to listen to you, do they perceive you as their spiritual mentor, do they believe what you say?

Whenever I hear the question as to where we should begin the practical overcoming of formalism in teaching, I want to say--no, not to say, but to entreat in earnest: My dear colleagues! Let us get down to restructuring the contents of our lectures. Good examples of such restructuring are set for us today by the mass news media. The central press and television raise and discuss (without fear, without looking over their shoulders!) the really acute and difficult questions of our life. We, however--in our scientific research and in our lectures--are still in no hurry to answer them. We don't know how to.

Let us bring back to our lectures the passionate and emotional work which does not produce academic proof of axioms but argues, upholds, and convinces! Let us bring back to our seminars the disputes and discussions in which the clash of opinions would temper our students' beliefs, let us reveal to them the revolutionary romanticism and depth of Marxism's scientific discoveries without letting it dry up in the form of quotations and extracts.

Today more than ever before the higher schools need quest, experimentation, and practical testing of new and efficient forms of instruction. But what they need even more are intelligent, benevolent, and talented lecturers. It seems necessary, therefore, to decisively overcome the shortcomings in the process of competitive selection for VUZ departments. Today the choice of lecturers by competition often follows a "preordained scenario"--at best, consideration is given only to application form data: work experience, number of works published, and so on. Frequently there is no selection, either, because there is only one candidate named in advance. No, if there is to be competition, then let it be proper competition! Let those competing for the title of social scientists read public lectures and prove their methodological skills at seminars; to put it briefly, let them prove that they are entitled to enter the students' auditorium.

Today we are all talking frankly and with concern about shortcomings in our work. And, in this respect, the recent conference of chiefs of social science departments differed substantially from all previous ones. And it could not have been otherwise, because we had gathered after the 27th congress, which taught us lessons in truth and Leninist implacability toward shortcomings. The critical, and at the same time constructive, atmosphere at the conference showed that the large army of Soviet social scientists has drawn its conclusions from these lessons and is clearly aware of the tasks facing it. The most important of these tasks are to lift the burden of scholasticism, formalism, and dogmatism from the teaching of social sciences, to establish a creative approach toward work with young people, and to nurture in students the ability to think independently and the need for continuous cognition of the dialectics of life. It is our party and civic duty to perform these tasks!

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SOCIAL ISSUES

ALCOHOL COUPON SYSTEM IN CHITA OBLAST CRITICIZED

PM181010 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 12 Nov 86 First Edition p 6

[M. Prutkin report for SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA under the rubric "TASS: Urgent Warning": "Drunken Coupon"]

[Text] Chita--The introduction of coupons for vodka was considered a decisive measure in the struggle against alcoholism in Chita Oblast. Outwardly everything looked fine: the waiting lines disappeared from the wine stores, once a month everyone could buy his "lawful" two bottles.

However, the initiators did not take account of human psychology: In families where formerly people had not given a thought to alcohol, now they were exchanging their coupons so as not to lag behind other people. It was awkward to avoid it: After all, the only people not "sanctioned" to drink were... absentees and violators of discipline. So even women on maternity leave came to the enterprises to ask for coupons.

In the Transbaykal they embarked on a path of formalism and bureaucracy on the question of creating a temperance society, too. In some institutions they simply posted an announcement: Everyone will join, period: According to reports, there are 100 temperance zones in the oblast today. What did the RSFSR Council of Ministers Commission on Combating Drunkenness see in these zones? Un Urulga, for instance, home brewing has increased 14-fold and 80 percent of crimes are committed by people who are drunk at the time. And in the 17 settlements in Petrovsk-Zabaykalskiy Rayon which have been declared temperance zones, the proportion of trade turnover accounted for by alcohol products is significantly higher than the average indicators for the oblast.

The coupon practice has been condemned in Chita today, but it proved difficult to revoke the decision--people had gotten used to sanctioned drunkenness. Not only was the introduction of coupons a violation of trading rules, but the coupons did not even avert trouble. In the oblast there is growing alcohol consumption among young people, home brewing is flourishing, and medical sobering-up centers are far from empty; this year their clients have included 128 leaders of enterprises and institutions. Some 12 percent more drunken drivers than last year have been arrested. That was the lamentable picture recorded by the republican commission, instead of the apparently fine

figures reported for the struggle against "demon alcohol." The work of local soviet ispolkoms and labor collectives to fulfill antialcohol legislation is deemed unsatisfactory.

A new initiative is now being launched in the oblast: for every family to spend the time remaining until the end of the year without using alcohol.

The question arises: Then what?

The answer evidently lies elsewhere: to oppose drunkenness by means of energetic actions by trade and public catering enterprises and cultural and sports institutions is something they are not yet ready to do in the Transbaykal. So they substitute for serious work the brief administrative word: prohibition...

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SOCIAL ISSUES

TuSSR: UNEMPLOYED WOMEN UNINTERESTED IN WORK, WANT HUSBANDS

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 1 Oct 86 p 2

[Article by L. Skachkova under the rubric "Restructuring: the Moral Angle":
"Waiting for a Fiance: Letters from Ashkhabad's Sovetskiy Rayon]

[Text] The urban outskirts--a place we encounter only in books and the cinema these days--have long been a thing of the past. City dwellers today, no matter where they live, are totally free to make the most of all the benefits of modern times. Everything--enterprises large and small, cinemas, parks--is close at hand. In brief, it is completely possible to perform socially useful work and to vary one's own leisure time. Anyway, that is how we think of the outlying areas of a modern city today.

But what is life really like there? In order to answer that question, a specific route was drawn up through one of the capital's large residential areas, which every Ashkhabad resident knows as "Sly Lass", a short name which speaks volumes.

This rayon has existed time out of mind, but now it has come of age. There are tens, hundreds of names of all possible alleyways and dead ends which at times are impossible to distinguish. The population grows year by year. About one hundred thousand people live here and tens of thousands of citydwellers work in plants and factories in the vicinity.

Time has changed the appearance of this outlying area. But for all that it is remains a sort of uncharted islet in the headlong rush of big-city life, and structures itself in adherence to unique precepts which do not always conform to the general groundrules.

There was nothing unprecedented about this process. Year after year, the phenomenon of inertia has grown here and now it is quite clear that in order to make radical changes in the rayon's lifestyle there has to be a radical break and the imposition of strict order. The rayon party committee, which was almost totally remanned a few months ago, has come up against this very problem. No doubt about it--a troublesome part of the work has fallen to the new staff. Among a multitude of bottlenecks, one of the most touchy areas was probably the work to be done with the population in their place of residence. This is why the rayon committee, when determining the compass of its more urgent tasks,

decided first of all to analyze the current state of affairs in this sphere, and to name the cause of the inertia openly and resoundingly.

A good number of disturbing phenomena were uncovered chief among which was unemployment among young people, and mostly among young women, who stay home for two or three years or more after finishing school. On-site investigations conducted by the rayon Komsomol committee identified some 800 people who were not doing any socially useful work at all. What are the motives?

The young lady I was speaking with had bright, clear eyes and a gaze unencumbered by care. When asked why she did not work, Orazgul replied that she was planning to get married. Had she been planning this for a while? For quite a while, as it turned out: she had left school three years previously. But what about making a living--was it not time to start putting something into the common pot? Though there was no response at all to that question, the answer was not far to seek. The young woman was wearing golden ornaments and precious stones which glittered in the sun like the display in a jewelry-shop window. Hefty earrings made of precious metal drooped from the earlobes of her little sisters, who were barely old enough to be going to school. In this family, with its eight dependents, only the father works. And for a large family, his wages--to be quite frank about it--are a modest 200 to 250 rubles.

This sort of phenomenon is no exception. We heard standard answers to similar questions in more than one home.

But what is the real state of things? Among 800 unemployed young women, 60 were married in the past year. Another 84 went to the work. And only 10 continued their education in higher educational institutions and tekhnikums.

Right now the rayon Komsomol committee holds a list of about 700 unemployed people. And how many of those who finished school during the last academic year should now be added to that list? Quite a few, probably. Graduates, not wishing to have any clear-cut idea of what they are going to do after they finish school, do not have any. Occupational guidance is exceedingly poor. Many graduates do not even know what the neighboring enterprises are, and have no interest in the possibility of going there to work. Production workers have long forgotten--if they ever knew--the way to the schools.

Facts which at first appear to be only local actually constitute an alarming problem--the problem of employment in the national economy, of job placement.

"The case of Orazgul," said O. Bayramov, first secretary of the Sovietskiy Rayon Committee of the Turkmen Communist Party, "is a graphic example of the task which the rayon party committee presently faces. The matter was discussed from the high rostrum of the party congress: It is essential to resolve socioeconomic issues in a clear-cut and efficient manner. What has to be done from the economic standpoint? Let us take a careful look around. Apart from one or two factories, the rayon has no enterprises which could employ women. To get to the cotton combine or the garment factory is a large problem. Urban transport is badly organized, with routes running down only a few of the hundreds of streets. Other ways had to be found."

One must give credit, other ways were found effectively. On a suggestion from the rayon party committee, the Repair and Construction Administration of the republic Ministry of Local Industry is now operating on the city outskirts. Here, where old repair shops once stood, shops for a new consumer goods factory are growing, where ceramic products will be produced. There is a measurable demand for goods of that sort, which are at present delivered to the republic from elsewhere--but, more importantly, some 400 girls will be able to find a use for their labor here. And the work they are to be offered is interesting: they will be painting designs on tableware.

As for the social aspect of this problem, its successful resolution requires help from the republic's State Planning Commission and various ministries and departments.

"At some point in the future," O. Bayramov continued, "new areas of urban construction will be seen here where inhabitants of outlying areas and workers from nearby enterprises can live as neighbors. These days, the campaigning and the appeals need not only words, but first of all deeds. In the meantime, not a single competent establishment or organization is doing anything to provide us with effective and concrete assistance in resolving this issue. So it is not at all easy to say how close that point in the future actually is."

What will happen to Orazgul and hundreds of her age-mates tomorrow is not just their problem. The young women are already psychologically prepared for the sole and only route of their futures lives--to become housewives. It is difficult to call this aspiration a dream. It is, rather, an old, familiar set-up which has by now become a mental frame of reference.

And meanwhile... Meanwhile, Orazgul sits at home, in her third year of waiting for a fiancee.

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REGIONAL ISSUES

GEORGIAN RIVERS, RESERVOIRS THREATENED BY POLLUTION

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 13 Aug 86 p 4

[Article by Venera Gvaramadze, chief of the sanitary service of the Georgia-Black Sea Reservoir Administration for the Protection and Reproduction of Fish Resources and for Fishing Control (Gruzcherrybvod) under "Nature and We" rubric: "For the Purity of the Blue Spaces"]

[Text] The economic and cultural activity of contemporary society is closely tied to the utilization of natural resources. With the growth of the cities, the development of various sorts of industrial water-storing sectors, and with the increased expenditure of water used in the production of agricultural products the problem of providing the national economy's sectors with water gets more complicated every year. The difficulty, however, lies not only in providing the needed quantity of water, but in the far greater degree of intense pollution of water springs with drainage waters and various production wastes. The water reservoirs of the Georgian SSR are no exception in this regard.

The Kura River is the republic's main water artery and its tributaries the Liakhvi, the Alazani, the Ksani, the Aragvi, the Khrami and the Mashavera are extremely polluted with drainage waters and the wastes from various industrial enterprises. The Kura River receives the run-off from such cities and highly-populated centers as Akhaltsikhe, Borzhomi, Khashuri, Gori, Tbilisi and Rustavi. In Western Georgia the Black Sea and all the water reservoirs which discharge into it receive the drainage waters. They receive the run-offs from such cities and population centers as Leselidze, Gantiadi, Gagra, Pitsunda, Sukhumi, Gudauta, Novyy Afon, Makharadze, Poti et al.

The Galizga River, which receives the run-off from the coal industry enterprises in the city of Tkvarcheli, has actually lost its importance with regard to the fish-related economy, and the Kvirila River has been polluted by run-off from the Chiaturmarganets Production Association.

Recently, the problem of the pollution of fish-economy reservoirs by waste waters and wastes from agricultural facilities has become particularly acute. There have been frequent instances of construction of dairy and livestock breeding complexes along the banks of rivers with no preliminary agreement on the part of fish-protection agencies. There are frequent cases in which existing regulations concerning the storage, use and transport of toxic chemicals have been grossly violated.

Serious violations have come to light in the Makhindzhauri sovkhos, located in the republic's Khelvachaurskiy Rayon, where a toxic chemical storage facility is located all of 25 m from a river. A pit used to fill up and wash carts used to transport toxic chemicals has been set up right on the river's bank. Pesticide containers are not turned in or destroyed after use, in accordance with the requirements of the appropriate section of directives on safety procedures related to pesticide use. The facility in question has been repeatedly inspected; however, its management has taken no measures whatsoever to rectify the situation. And these are not isolated facts. For example, the kolkhoz imeni Dzhincharadze in the Khelvachaurskiy Rayon's Makhindzhauri settlement; trucks have been filled with toxic chemicals right in the reservoir which spills into the Black Sea. And the filling operation was carried out by an entomology expert, who is professionally obliged to be in control of the cleanliness of our blue spaces. And the state of affairs in Western Georgia is exactly the same. Here, for example, you have the Gurdzheanskii Rayon's Velistsikhe village kolkhoz. The tank used to fill the equipment is located in a sanitary zone, that is, closer than 500 m from the water level (of the Alazani River).

The Georgia-Black Sea Reservoir Administration for the Protection and Reproduction of Fish Resources and for Fishing Control (Gruzcherrybvod) conducts a vigorous and constant battle against violations of the water codes and legal statutes. This is attested to by certain figures taken from the semi-annual report of the administration's sanitary service. In just six months of this year over 1,300 violations were uncovered, which had to do with the discharge of raw sewage into fish-economy reservoirs. Penalty fines totalling R40,910 were levied which are correspondingly being paid. Bonuses for production achievements are being withheld from 36 managers of various facilities for not taking water-protection measures; 95 cases were taken for response to party and soviet organs and 17 were taken before people's control committees. The figures speak for themselves. However, the main goal of the fish-protection agencies is not that of bring violations to light, imposing fines or punishing anyone. Augmentation of our fish resources is one of our basic tasks. And the main thing is to put a stop to the irresponsible and careless activity of many of the managers of a number of facilities, who are to blame for so often causing irreparable damage to our natural wealth. And we must stop them in time. Strict demands on the part of our organizations and departments will make it possible to wage an effective battle for cleanliness in the republic's blue (water) areas, and to use our resources more fully.

12659

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REGIONAL ISSUES

GEORGIANS EVALUATE EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE, BEGIN REBUILDING

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 10 Sep 86 p 3

[GRUZINFORM article under the "After the Event" rubric: "Elements in Defiance"]

[Text] The earthquake which occurred 3 September of this year in Georgia caused a great deal of damage to the economies of the Akhalkalakskiy and Bogdanovskiy rayons.

More than a thousand residential buildings, and quite a few schools, medical aid posts and animal breeding farms suffered damage here. Scores of apartment buildings were rendered completely uninhabitable. These are for the most part ramshackle structures, and were made of the adobe-stone mixture, which in the old days was traditional for this vicinity. Fortunately, not a single person was hurt, if we do not count one resident of the modern earthquakeproof five-storey building in the city of Akhalkalaki Tsily Tarkhanyan. At the time of the earthquake she slipped because of a sharp jolt and struck her face on a staircase step. Levan Khachaturovich Sherenyan, who is a Gosstrakh [Main State Insurance Administration of the USSR Ministry of Finances] inspector who was hurrying to work, had to take her to the hospital to be bandaged.

"In our apartment building, as well as in a number of others, dishes began falling from the shelves and the severe shaking damaged furniture. The earthquakeproof building itself stood up under the impact of the underground elements," he explained.

"In the Akhalkalakskiy Rayon, the five villages of the Baraletskiy village Soviet suffered the most from the earthquake," said Meruzhan Aramovich, chairman of the rayispolkom. "Over 400 buildings were damaged."

It is painful, of course to look at a damaged home. But there were so many of our own near relatives, and each of them was prepared to help in any way they could. This is why any discussion of this event immediately takes on a business-like character: how much cement, stone or wood will be needed to rebuild the residences? The state is helping, and not only with building materials, but with money as well.

L. Makvaryan, chairman of the village Soviet ispolkom had the words of sympathy and practical advice needed by each person at a given moment. He is at home in

any home, and is congenial and kind to everyone. You had to see the savvy and the enthusiasm he displayed when discussing the design for the new school which is to be built in Baraleti to replace the old one which was destroyed by the earthquake. This discussion was held with Aleksandr Davidovich Kiknadze, the chief architect of the Tbilisi Regional Scientific Research and Planning Institute for Standard and Experimental Planning for Residential and Public Buildings.

"The school children of four out of five schools of the village Soviet were left without regular classrooms, but not without schools," Levan Avakovich said proudly. "After the underground shock, we re-equipped some of the village Soviet's and the kolkhozes' governing boards' new empty buildings...."

Representatives of the republic's party and Soviet agencies, headed by Chairman of the GSSR Council of Ministers Otar Yevtikhiyevich Cherkeziya, arrived at the epicenter zone immediately after the earthquake.

A government commission has been set up to study the results of the earthquake, and to take up the question of rendering aid to those suffering from it. This commission is headed by First Deputy Chairman of the GSSR Council of Ministers and Chairman of the GSSR State Agroindustrial Committee G. D. Mgeladze. Committee members can be seen in any village in the effected rayons. They listen attentively to the kolkhoz farmers and sovkhoz workers and take careful notes in their notepads. And in fact the fate of a human being hangs on each notation.

Even in such a difficult time as this, the local residents, having listened to words of sympathy, immediately started discussing the upcoming potato harvest, and talked about getting the farms ready for winter and about how much faster and better to do these jobs. The optimistic, life-affirming character of the inhabitants of the Pogdanovskiy Rayon was manifested during this time. Two days after the earthquake a meeting of the farms' party aktiv was held, as proposed earlier. They discussed the question of the upcoming wintering of the livestock. And they talked about the earthquake. In short order, measures were outlined for the elimination of the earthquakes traces. And here, just as in the Akhal-kalaskiy Rayon, this was the second earthquake this year, following the force 7 earthquake which struck in May. This is explained by the fact that the force 5-6 September quake acted like a force 7 event. Especially where the buildings stand on weak, water-saturated soils.

The villages of both rayons, particularly those damaged by the underground elements began, literally right before our eyes, to build high-quality earthquakeproof stone buildings on new streets.

From the direction of the city of Tsalka to the rayon center, there stretches a line of poles for the electric railroad contact system, and the lines of ties flash along the mountain slopes. They accompany travelers all the way to Akhal-kalaki. Here it is--the long-awaited steel main line along which trains are sent briskly, carrying machines, tractors and industrial freight, and in the direction of the industrial centers it hauls agricultural products and building materials.

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REGIONAL ISSUES

NIVKH SCHOLAR SKETCHES HIS PEOPLE'S PAST, TRADITIONS

Moscow GOLOS RODINY in Russian No 37, Sep 86 pp 6-7

[Article by Chuner Taksami: "My Countrymen, Nivkhi"]

[Text] Our readers often request articles about different facts of life in the Soviet Union, and in particular articles about the minor nations in the USSR. We are responding to their wishes by publishing the story of a scientist in the Institute of Ethnography of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Doctor of History Chuner Taksami, about himself and the Nivkhi- one of the 26 nationalities living in Siberia and the Eastern part of our country. Journalist V. Kupischo recorded the story.

According to the 1979 census, there are 4,420 Nivkhi living in Siberia. At the end of the nineteenth century, my fellow tribesmen and other Siberian peoples were subjected to an unprecedented unfamiliar pressure from capitalistic influence, which was changing their way of life. Capitalism was responsible for the Northerners becoming almost extinct. It brought along diseases unfamiliar to the natives of the taiga and tundra. Epidemics began that would wipe out whole tribes, whole villages would perish. Researchers said that should this continue, then in 20-30 years the Nivkhi (they were then called Gilyaks) and other Siberian populations would disappear from the face of this earth. And if it wasn't for October, 1917, this would have happened.

I grew up in a fishing family. Our mother had a lot of children, many of whom died. My parents also died, and only three of us, brothers, survived. I studied in our village, where we built a large, two-story school with the children's home next to it. Many children of different nationalities, not only Nivkhi, but also Evenkhi and Negidals lived there. When The Fatherland War began, all grown men went to the front. Only I published the monographs "Nivkhi", "Major Problems of Ethnographics and History of the Nivkhi", dictionaries and other books, and many articles in different collections about Nivkhi and other nationalities of the North. I compiled a Nivkhi alphabet. Many children are learning it, including in my school in Kalma. In the last few years I have been studying the cultural traditions of Siberian peoples. A collection of articles on this theme is almost complete.

The people who are participating in the economic integration of the North should draw on the eternal experience of the natives. The Northerners never let their work conflict with the natural surroundings. This is how they managed things and at the same time protected the environment. Let's say, that every Nivkhi family occupied a certain territory. In this plot, this family knew everything: how many and what kind of animals live there, how many males, how many females and how many young ones. They knew how many animals they could kill, so that the animal does not become extinct. Females were never killed. The little ones were also not killed, they would let them grow. The same thing with fish--if they caught a little one, it was thrown back to grow. So it could come back when it is grown!

Such an attitude towards life has deep roots in the people. Traditions, behavioral codes, and Northerners' customs were developed through practice. Every generation of Nivkhi, like other Northern peoples, would choose places in its region where none hunted or fished--mini preservations where animals and birds could multiply and settle without danger. Local hunters in the forest would not needlessly follow animal tracks. Why bother the animal? He would start a fire without endangering women, old men and we teenagers were left behind. I had to stop my studies: everyone who lived in the village worked in the collective farm, fished, grew vegetables, took care of the domestic animals and sent food to the front. I did not study until almost the end of the war. When the war was over, I entered the pedagogical vocational school at Nicholayevsk-on-Amur. And then I had a new dream - to study in Leningrad. I wrote to the head of Leningrad University. I went home to work in our collective farm, "Red Star", and waited for the response. During that fall, the weather was mostly rainy and the fishing was poor. I remember in the beginning of September we were sitting around the fire. Someone noticed a boat crossing the Amur River. The boat was constantly being buried by the waves. When the boat approached the shore, I saw my mother steering and my younger brother at the oars. They brought a registered letter: I was being summoned to Leningrad to take my entrance exams.

The same evening, people from my village got together to decide if I should go. One of the elders, Kostin, said to me: "Everywhere, there are good people, look for them and depend on them. Don't worry about your mother and brother, we will take care of them, if need be. You should go, we need educated people."

That's how I became a student. I studied with persistence, and was able to prepare Russian-Nivkh and Nivkh-Russian dictionaries with my teacher, Valentina Nikolaevna Chavelevaya. And when I graduated, I was asked to enter graduate school.

I wavered. I wanted to go home. But then I remembered the villagers coming to see me off and how they hoped that I would master all the sciences. So I agreed.

I was very fortunate. Leningrad University has first class specialists. I am grateful to them for what I was able to do for my people. The forest. So that is how my nation lives in the large, comfortable family of all peoples in the

Country of Soviets. Although my nation is not large, national experience and wisdom do not depend on the size of the population, and that our true way of life is respected and treasured says something about authentic equality of all people in my Motherland.

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REGIONAL ISSUES

ArSSR: ASSYRIAN-LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 24 Oct 86 p 4

[Armenpress brief: "In the Native Language"]

[Text] By decision of the Armenian SSR Ministry of Education, instruction in the Assyrian language will be introduced in classes 4 through 9 in secondary schools with Russian-language instruction in the villages of Arzin, Dvin, and Dimitrov, a significant number of whose inhabitants are Assyrian, beginning with the 1986-1987 school year.

The republic Institute for Teacher Training under the Armenian SSR Ministry of Education has put together monthly courses to prepare teachers who are qualified to conduct classes in the Assyrian language. More than 20 teachers who work at the schools in question have received training in these courses. Guest lecturers included G. Arsanis, docent at the USSR MVD Moscow State Institute for International Relations, and M. Arsanis, all-union radio announcer, both of whom are eminent Moscow specialists on the ancient Assyrian tongue and who have written a new textbook on the language, as well as L. Sargizov, candidate in historical sciences and distinguished teacher of the Armenian SSR.

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